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Uni Steater

little Cont Cat off who wrote AMMAN (Petra) - His Majesty Les Les Finder # King Hussein Wednesday received a message from the presi-dent of the Chechen Republic cxpressing high appreciation to the right of the King for his constructive role in supporting Islamic causes and maiked up de the Journ in 1685 for Jordan's tangible contribution to world peace. The message was ibuic to hun. Th conveyed to King Hussein by a with inc foreign group of Chechen pilgrims transiting Jordan on foot to Saudi 'Arabia. the strength of

King hosts Iftar

and a camen.
Remaine Bohns AMMAN (Petra) - His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday hosted ited first film t an iftar for senior officers from the Armed Forces, the Public Security Department (PSD), the General Intelligence Department (GID) and the Civil Defence Department (CDD) senior offices. The banquet was attended by several members of the royal family, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Royal Court Chief Khaled Al Karaki, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, Private Chamberlain Prince Ali Ben Nayef, the chair-man of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the directors of the PSD, GID and CDD.

Egyptian forces klli 14 militants

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian security forces have shot and killed 14 Muslim militants during raids on three strongholds in the Cairo area and a mosque in the southera town of Aswan, security sources said Wednesday. They said one officer and three soldiers had also been killed, all in the operation in Cairo. The sources said security forces killed seven militants and injured 14 late on Tuesday night when they stormed the mosque in Aswan, one of Egypt's main tourist sites, (see

Revolutionary Guards čiash in Tehran

TEHRAN (R) — Two Revolutionary Guard units clashed for several hours over possession of a central Tehran building, Salam newspaper said Wednesday. Police firing into the air intervened to end the violence, the paper said. It did not say what form the violence took nor whether anyone was injured in the incident, which occurred Tuesday.

Bomb explodes near Sanaa embassy

SANAA (AP) — A bomb exploded during the night near the British embassy in Sanaa, causing no casualties but damaging a wall around the compound, an Interior Ministry official said Wednesday. Investigation was under way to track down the perpetrators, the official said. The Interior Ministry official, like other government members. blamed the violence on unspecified enemies of the May 1990 merger of conservative North Yemen with the former communist

PLO officer killed in South Lebanon

TYRE (AP) - Gunmen, believed linked to Abu Nidal Wednesday killed an officer of he mainstream Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) near this southern port city, security sources said. Major Ahmad Montasser was driving out of the Qassmiyeh Palestinian refugee camp at 1:30 p.m. (1130 GMT) when the gunmen ambushed him with assault rifles and fled. The camp is about four kilometres north of Tyre.

Deputies reject motion for school segregation

Vote seen as severe blow to Islamists

By Ayman Al Safadi Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - In what one parliamentarian described as the strongest defeat of Islamist members of the Lower House of Parliament, deputies Wednesday voted down a controversial bill to segregate sexes in schools in the Kingdom.

Only 16 of the 59 deputies who attended Wednesday's fiery session voted in favour of the bill, which was proposed by the House's Islamist-dominated Education Committee and endorsed by the Judiciary Committee. The bill was introduced as an amendment to a draft education law that was approved by the House Wednesday.

Some members of the Muslim Brotherhood bloc at the House made their outrage at the defeat

After failing to win the House's support for the bill, some members of the 22-strong bloc took their battle to the courtyard of the Parliament House and almost physically attacked Deputy Faris Nabulsi, who strongly opposed

Brotherhood Deputy Abdul Hafiz Alawi intercepted Deputy Nabulsi as he walked out of Parliament building and shouted profanities at him

"You are a promoter of cor-



Jordan," Mr. Alawi screamed at Mr. Nabulsi, the only deputy who spoke openly and strongly against the proposition to ban coeducation at government and

Another Brotherhood deputy, Mohammad Al Azaideh also shouted insults at Mr. Nabulsi outside the House. "Shut your face," he told Mr. Nabulsi before he was held back from him by Deputy Suleiman Arar. An independent Islamist par-

liamentarian was also severely. criticised by Brotherhood deputies for not voting in favour of

Some brotherhood deputies ac-

budget annex which would provide for an increase in the salaries of public employees and of retired personnel, sources told the Jordan Times Wednesday.

Although senior officials re-

frained from confirming or de-nying the possibility of holding an extraordinary session, the sources noted that the government would be constitutionally required to do so if 40 members of the 80-seat Lower House sign a petition making the demand.

Extraordinary

session planned

By Nermeen Murad

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - The Lower House

of Parliament will be called for an

extraordinary session to complete

urgent legislation and pass a

In article 82 para ii, the Constitution stipulates that "the King may summon the National Assembly to meet in an extraordinary session at the request of an absolute majority of the deputies. Such a request shall be contained in a petition specifying the matters which it is desired to discuss."

The government, according to the sources, would also be interested in calling for a "short session" to complete pending leg-



diers Wednesday chase Palestinian demonstrators in occupied Gaza Strip (AFP photo)

Israelis chase and kill school boy

chased and shot dead a Palestinian high school student and wounded two others after their vehicles were stoned near Jerusalem Wednesday, Arab witnesses said.

They said the soldiers' lives were not in danger when they

kicked the victim, Majed Haji, 17, as he lay critically wounded on the ground.

The soldiers called out warnings and fired at the legs after Haji and other stone-throwers refused to stop fleeing, an army official asserted. The soldiers denied kicking Haji.

Two Palestinians were wounded in the incident which began at 7:30 a.m. (0530 GMT) when ab-

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM out 20 high school students the chase. The soldiers' lives were (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers stoned Israeli cars in the Jerunot in danger," Dr. Tibi said. salem Arab neighbourhood of Beit Hanina, said police spokesman Shmuel Ben Rudy.

Among vehicles hit was a car with military licence plates carrying four soldiers, Mr. Ben Rudy said. Two of the soldiers got out and ordered the stonethrowers in Arabic to halt, the

The soldiers fired shots in the air, and afterwards shot at the legs of those who didn't stop," he

Dr. Ahmad Tibi, a Palestinian physician and political activist, told the Associated Press he watched from his house as two soldiers ran after students and: fired automatic weapons from 10 to 20 metres away. "No stones were thrown during

The troops maintained other youths were still throwing stones, endangering soldiers' lives, when the troops opened fire, the army said. Military police were called

involved were not detained. Dr. Tibi's neighbour, 30-yearold Fathmeh Hamad, said she watched from her balcony as two soldiers gave chase, shooting at fleeing youths. Mrs. Hamad said that after Haji was shot and critically wounded, one of the soldiers kicked him in the side.

in to investigate, but the soldiers

Haji died in an empty lot underneath Mrs. Hamad's balcony. Neighbourhood boys placed small stones in circles on the blood soaked sand. The boys

(Continued on page 5)

Yeltsin camp fights impeachment

Boris Yeltsin's supporters fought Wednesday as the hardline congress convened an emergency session on who should rule Russia. A motion to ask Russia's con-

stitutional court whether Mr. Yeltsin was upholding the constitution failed to win enough votes for passage.

Still, led by Yeltsin rival Ruslan Khasbulatov, the communist dominated congress appeared ready to strip more of Mr. Yeltsin's executive powers and paralyse his reforms.

Pro-Yeltsin deputies failed to remove from the congress' agenda the issue of whether the president and other leaders violated

MOSCOW (AP) - President for Mr. Yeltsin's impeachment. Later pro-communist lawmakoff impeachment proceedings er Mikhail Astafiyev proposed asking the constitutional court to

determine whether Mr. Yeltsin has violated the constitution, but it received 410 votes in favour and 341 votes against. The measure fell 99 votes short of the simple majority needed for passage in the 1,033-member con-

"The vote (on impeachment) showed the highest level of support we have ever had on this issue. But there is no chance that our demand will be met at this congress," hardliner Vladimir Isakov told reporters.

The constitutional courts already has ruled that Mr. Yetlthe constitution. Hardliners were sin's 1991 ban on grassroots strucseeking to use that issue to press tures of the Communist Party was

unconstitutional. It said his ban last year on a hardline opposition group also violated the constitu-

Mr. Yeltsin opposes some provisions of the constitution, drawn up under former Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev and amended the lawmakers. He mainly objects to the article that states the congress is the supreme political authority.

Hardliners were proposing to strip him of most of his remaining powers to carry out reforms by revoking an agreement they reached with the president in December. Under the agreement, the congress agreed to an April 11 nationwide referendum to ask voters who should rule

(Continued on page 5)

U.S. issues invitations to bilaterals Christopher sees 'one-time' opportunity for settlement

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Middle East peace talks will reopen here April 20 for what may be a "one time opportunity" to arrange a settlement between Israel and the Arabs, Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Wednesday.

Brushing aside a threatened Palestinian boycott, Mr. Christopher said the Clinton administration would play a more active role in the talks and that should entice the Palestinians to partici-

"I strongly feel we have not heard the last word from the Palestinians," he said after Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi said an invitation from the co-sponsors, the United States and Russia, had been rejected (see separate story).

Mr. Christopher said he particularly hoped Israel and Syria would make progress in their dispute. "All of us must act to seize and enhance these opportu-

(Continued on page 5)

The invitations went also to

Israel, Syria, Jordan and Leba-

non for a two-week round begin-

ning April 20. Mr. Christopher said the delegations were being

asked to send representatives for

preliminary talks later this month

ity to play the role of full part-

Mr. Christopher said he had not yet "confronted" the ques-

tion whether the talks would pro-

ceed in the event of a Palestinian

the parties today," he said. "We

think the important fact here is to

keep the momentum up. Perso-

He said, "with our willingness

"We've issued invitations to all

"We must seize the opportun-

and in early April.

he said.

bovcott.

will come.

Jordan to announce its stand after Arab talks AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan said in a recent television interview Wednesday it would wait for an that Jordan was committed to the

Arab coordination meeting to decide whether to accept an invitation to attend a ninth round of Middle East peace talks.

"Our response to the invitation will be announced after the meeting of foreign ministers expected to be held in Damascus after the 'Eid, where we will coordinate with the other Arab parties," Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber was quoted as saying by Reuters.

Dr. Abu Jaber received the invitation from American and Russian envoys in Amman earlier Wednesday. Reports from Washington have said the U.S. and Russia want the talks to resume on April 20.

nally, I think that all the parties The Palestinians and Arab states involved in the peace talks expect to meet in Damascus after to participate fully as an active the Holy Month of Ramadan party, to be an intermediary, to ends in about two weeks to discuss the negotiations. His Majesty King Hussein said

peace process, but it would be difficult for Jordan to return to the talks without the Palestinians. Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) Political Department, had intensive talks Tuesday with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa, focusing on

After a three-hour session, Mr. Kaddoumi told reporters that his talks with Mr. Sharaa centred on how to coordinate positions among the Arab parties involved in the peace process and to solve the problem of almost 400 Palestinians expelled by Israel to Lebanon on Dec. 17.

the peace process.

"We have said, and we now repeat, that the United States should pressure Israel to be committed to the principles on which the political settlement was based," Mr. Kaddoumi said.

(Continued on page 5)

Rabin: Camp David-style summit with Arabs possible

The Jerusalem Post

ON THE EVE of his visit to the U.S., where he will meet with President Bill Clinton in the White House on Monday, Prime' Minister Yitzhak Rabin held out the possibility that Israel favours convening a Camp David-style summit between Israeli and Arab

But he indicated that the U.S. could only play the pivotal role it did at Camp David, "bridging the gaps" and facilitating compromises, only after differences between the sides had narrowed at the peace table.

In an exclusive interview with the The Jerusalem Post Tuesday, Rabin declared that neither Arabs nor Israelis have revealed their final positions.

"No one shows his final positions at the very beginning... (that) happens when the gap is narrowed, not as deep. We saw it happens at Camp David, we saw it happen in other ways in which there is room for an additional partner to participate. Not to replace the parties, but to help them bridge the gaps."

In talking about the key role the U.S. will ultimately have to play, Rabin said: "At Camp

David, there were no tripartite meetings. There was walking from one to another, sitting between Israelis and Egyptians, Israelis and Americans, but all of them were together at the highest

Asked if he favoured a Camp David-style summit, he said it is one of the options.

In the past, Rabin has spoken about a one-on-one summit with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, but has not mentioned a U.S.

However, Rabin was careful not to offend Palestinian sensibilities. When asked if the U.S. should convene a summit between itself, Israel, and Syria, he replied that the list of participant could be expanded.

On the \$3 billion Israel now receives annually in U.S. aid, he said, "Israel's goal is to sustain our needs without being dependent on outside assistance, with the exception of the defence programme. After being pressed, Rabin said Israel should ultimately

agree to phase out the \$1.2 billion in non-military aid, but insisted this could not be done now. "It is still a long way away," he said

Palestinians refuse to accept invitation

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM in any event. (Agencies) — Palestinian negotiators rejected Wednesday a nians were still committed in U.S. invitation to resume peace principle to the negotiations talks with Israel in Washington next month.

"We have refused to receive the invitation," Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi said after U.S. Consul-General Mollie Williamson delivered the

Chief Palestinian negotiator Haider Abdul Shafi said before people. the meeting his team would not ume the 16-month-old talks before the crisis was resolved over Israel's expulsion of 415 Palestinians to Lebanon in De-

Ms. Williamson left her meeting with the Palestinian negotiators after 30 minutes. The negotiators emerged an hour la-

"We will not respond positively if Israel does not commit itself not to return to deportations," Dr. Shafi said. "But we will study the situation very well."

However, William Harron, the U.S. ambassador to Israel, said the United States expected the Palestinians to attend the next round of Arab-Israeli peace talks

Dr. Abdul Shafi said Palestiwhich began in October 1991 but

the expulsions made their return impossible. He told Reuters Tuesday that the most important point for the Palestinians was an Israeli commitment to refrain from future expulsions but Israel was insisting on reserving the right to expel

In London, Faisal Husseini, head of the Palestinian delegation, said the team would return to the peace talks if Israel gave guarantees about expulsions. Mr. Husseini said Israel must

set a schedule for the return of Palestinian expellees and rule out future expulsions. He said the Palestinians

wanted an Israeli "statement of principle" on the two points to return to the talks. But, in an apparent softening

of the Palestinian position, Mr. Husseini said the talks might resume before all of the more than 400 Palestinians expelled in December had returned.

(Continued on page 5)

U.N. says Iraq not giving

answers

BAGHDAD (R) - A senior U.N. arms expert said Wednesday the Iraqis were still not providing clear answers to his questions on their nulcear weapons

programme.
"We always have difficulties to obtain full and precise answers to our technical questions," Dimitri Perricos, heading a visiting team of nulcear experts to Iraq, told

Asked how close Iraq was to complying fully with the demands of the United Nations, Mr. Perricos said: "We are definitely closer today

Reuters.

than two years ago when we first started the nulcear inspection in May 1991. "The Iraqis have implemented

a number of our requests, including some difficult tasks such as the destruction of equipment and nulcear facilities." But he said the speed and ability demonstrated by Iraq in

rebuilding its damaged industrial base after the Gulf war "underlines the need for long-term effective monitoring." "No weapons site has been reconstructed," said Mr. Perticos, who arrived a week ago with

Under the terms that ended the Gulf war over Kuwait, Iraq is obliged to delcare and get rid of all weapons of mass destruction and the means to produce them. It is also compelled to accept long-term U.N. monitoring to en-

a 24-member team of inspectors.

(Continued on page 5)

Another Arab charged with helping New York bombing

NEW YORK, New Jersey (Agencies) — A Kuwaiti-born chemical engineer was charged Wednesday in connection with the bombing of the World Trade Centre, the second person alleged to be directly linked to the blast.

Nidal Ayyad, 25, was arrested at his home in Maplewood Wednesday morning. He was brought before a federal magistrate on a complaint charging him with aiding and abetting in the

bombing. Magistrate Dennis Cavanaugh ordered Mr. Ayyad held without bail. His public defender, Thomas Higgins, requested an identity hearing to determine whether Mr. Ayyad is the person who was sought by the government. Nidal Ayyad, 25, is a Rutgers

University graduate, said his father, Abdul Rahman Joseph Ayyad. A federal investigator, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the man allegedly was in-

volved in renting the van used in the devastating explosion. It was not clear if his role went beyond that, the investigator said. Mr. Ayyad's father, waiting outside the magistrate's cour-troom, said Mr. Salameh visited

his son at the house in Maplewood; but he did not know how often or how recently. The elder Ayyad said he was

from Palestine but that his children were born in Kuwait. Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) spokesman Joseph Valiquette would say only that the suspect was a man arrested

without incident about 6:45 a.m.

Mr. Salameh, who has been charged with helping carry out the bombing, has been jailed without bail.

Another man has been charged with obstruction of justice. The new arrest came as the FBI tightened its investigation of the bombings, examining links among the two men arrested earlier and Al Sayyid Nosair, the man acquitted of killing anti-

Arab extremist Rabbi Meir Kahane in 1990. Last week, the first link emerged when Mr. Nosair's Cousin Ibrahim Al Gabrowny was charged with obstruction in connection with the bombing probe for allegedly scuffling with law enforcement officers during a

On Tuesday, Mr. Nosair's attorney, civil rights lawyer William Kunstler, said that during Mr. Nosair's 1991 trial in the Kahane slaying, Mr. Gabrowny helped the defence team, handling everything from security to

Mr. Nosair was acquitted of murder in Rabbi Kahane's slaying but was convicted of a weapons offense and committing an assault as he fied the shooting

In other developments:

FBI's New York office, told a

- Investigators failed again to find the body of a trade centre worker missing since the blast. The worker is believed duried under tonnes of rubble.

New York Newsday reported Wednesday that investigators believe the bomb was made out of 545 kilogramme of explosives triggered by nitroglycerine. Bomb-Makers are believed to

urea and nitroglycerin - and concocted the dynamite-like bomb in a Jersey City storage locker, the newspaper quoted an unidentified source as saying. Investigators calculated the weight of the bomb by tracing

picking up documents. the paper said.

Authorities say Salameh, 25, rented the van that held the bomb detonated under the 110-storey twin towers Feb. 26. The blast killed at least five people and injured more than 1,000,

Mr. Gabrowny and Mr. Salameh have been jailed without bail, and the FBI said it may make other arrests this week.

congressional panel in Washington Tuesday that investigators believe the bombing was carried out by a large and highly professional group.

have purchased the chemicals including nitric acid, sulfuric acid.

chemicals found in the locker to the place they were purchased. then subtracting the weight of those chemicals from the total amount that had been purchased.

The father of Mohammad Salameh has said his son had sent him a message telling him he was

"Mohammad's lawyer called one of my sons three days ago to tell us through an interpreter that Mohammad sends us his regards and assures us of his innocence." he told Reuters.

that his son was a Muslim fun-

Amin Salameh, who denied

(Continued on page 5)



Cypriot leaders agree to meet in New York

NICOSIA (AP) - Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders have accepted an invitation by the U.N. secretary-general to resume - talks in New York for the reunification of the island, the United Nations announced Wednesday.

Greek Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash held separate meetings this week with a team of three top U.N. officials, who conveyed to them the invita-- tion to the meeting, set for March

· Mr. Denktash, president of a breakaway state in Turkish-occupied northern Cyprus, initially rejected U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali's invitation.

But he changed his mind after further talks Tuesday with the

MADRID (AP) - The Spanish

foreign ministry Tuesday admit-ted that it held talks with the

Palestinian fundamentalist

Hamas faction, a day after it

denied having any contact with

the group.
"Yes, we have had contact, not

official, but low level," ministry

He said the ministry had de-

nied Hamas claims Monday to

have held talks with a Spanish

foreign ministry envoy as the

meeting was of a low-level nature

and as such would not be re-

there would be any further meet-

ings.
Mr. Lena's comments came af-

ter the Hamas representative in

Jordan, Mohammad Nazzal, ex-

pressed surprise at the Spanish

He insisted that the group's representatives in Sudan, Munir

Al Sayed, had held a two-hour

meeting on Feb. 21 in the

Sudanese capital Khartoum with

Augustin Cassinello, a Spanish

KHARTOUM (Agencies) -

Sudan has taken over an Egyp-

tian-run university and sacked its

vice-chancellor less than three

months after annexing a number

State television said Tuesday

Education Minister Ibrahim

Ahmad Omar had revoked a

license granted to Egypt in 1955

for the establishment of Cairo

University, Khartoum Branch,

and renamed the institution Ni-

- The television quoted Mr.

Omar as saying the government

was seeking to expand higher

education in Sudan and bring

home Sudanese students learning

... He said the move was part of a

review of Sudan's cultural rela-

ty would be financed and admi-

nistered by his ministry. He

announced the dismissal of the

vice-chancellor and the deans of

the science and law faculties. The

university also offers courses in

The new vice-chancellor

appointed by Khartoum is Ibra-

him Al Amin Nagar, formerly

vice-chancellor of the First of

September University in the

western state of Darfur which was

Last December the Sudanese

government annexed six Egyp-

tian-run primary and secondary

schools with a total student

population of about 6,000, saying

a change in the national school

curriculum necessitated the

The Egyptians protested,

Sudan has set up seven new

saying the move was tantamount

to a confiscation of the schools.

set up with Libyan aid.

takeover.

Mr. Omar said Nilein Universi-

tions with all countries.

commerce and arts.

of Egyptian schools.

lein University.

·.abroad.

Sai

rui

TW:

Speaking Tuesday, Mr. Lena the Jewish state.

university in Khartoum

Sudan takes over Egyptian

embassy consul in Cairo.

He said he did not believe

ported by the ministry.

ministry's denial.

wim

spokesman Juan Lena said.

Madrid admits holding

talks with Hamas envoys

mediators - Oscar Camilion, the day for the first time since Mr. U.N. chief's special representative in Cyprus, Marrack Goulding, U.N. under-secretary-general for political affairs, and Gustave Feissel, a special envoy from New York.

Mr. Clerides, who was elected president earlier this month, had already accepted the invitation. The U.N. statement said Mr.

Clerides and Mr. Denktash will discuss at the one-day meeting under Dr. Ghali "the timing. mobalities and preparation for the resumption of the substantive direct negotiations, in pursuance of his mission mandated by the Security Council."

agreed the meeting had taken place as Mr. Nazzai described.

sed the future of the Middle East

peace talks following Israel's De-

cember expulsion of nearly 400 Palestinians to southern

The Middle East peace process

Hamas representatives have

began in Madrid, October 1991.

also met with British, Chinese,

French, Italian and German offi-

cials as part of a diplomatic offen-

sive to capitalise on the publicity

it has received since the expul-

sions and to secure a bigger role

The United States last month

admitted that had held talks with

Hamas in Jordan. The U.S. Con-

gress is seeking to add Hamas to

Hamas is a chief rival of the

mainstream Palestine Liberation

Organisation (PLO) faction

Fatch in the Israeli-occupied

the Middle East peace process

and advocates the eradication of

universities in the last three and a

half years, raising annual student

intake from 5,000 in 1989 to over

25,000 in the current academic

More than 6,000 Sudanese stu-

Mr. Omar said he had sent a

dents studying abroad have been

message to the Egyptian charge

d'affaires in Sudan, thanking the

Egyptian government, and lectur-

ers who taught at the university.

Most of the students in the

university are Sudanese but most of the teaching staff were Egyp-

tians. It was not immediately

clear what would happen to

states have been soured by Egyp-

tian accusations that Sudan's Isla-

mic rulers are encouraging Mus-

the Halaib triangle, a remote,

desert area bordering the Red

Sea. Talks on the dispute in

The two neighbours both claim

fim militants in Egypt.

textbooks."

Relations between the two

brought home.

Unlike Fatch, Hamas rejects

West Bank and Gaza Strip.

in Middle East politics.

America's terrorist list.

Mr. Nazzal said the two discus-

The two Cypriot leaders was to meet face to face later WednesClerides' election during a farewell dinner for Mr. Camilion, who is leaving Cyprus after five years to take up his new post as Argentina's defence minister.

Mr. Clerides and Mr. Denktash are old acquaintances. They both helped draft the Cyprus constitution in 1968 after independence from Britain.

The last round of Cyprus talks was held in New York between Mr. Dentkash and Mr. Clerides' predecessor, George Vassiliou.

The talks ended inconclusively when Mr. Denktash rejected guidelines proposed by Dr. Ghali for the reunification of the island in a bizonal federation.

Mr. Clerides has criticised cer-

especially those that restrict the number of Greek Cypriot refugees who would be allowed to return to their homes in the

Cyprus has been divided since 1974, when Turkey occupied the northern portion of the island after an Athens-backed coup by Greek Cypriot supporters of union with Greece.

Some 200,000 Greek Cypriots fled south or were evicted and an estimated 40,000 Turkish Cypriots moved north.

The U.N. blueprint calls for the withdrawal of the estimated 35,000 Turkish troops and 50,000 mainland settlers from the north. Mr. Denktash has rejected these

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Red Cross plans 9-month programme in Iraq

GENEVA (R) - The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) said Tuesday it was planning a nine-month programme of food and medical aid for some 250,000 people across Iraq. The Geneva-based organisation, which links national Red Cross bodies across the world, said it was launching an appeal to its members for a total of 12 million Swiss francs (\$7.8 million) to fund the programme. IFRC spokeswoman Anne Naef said it wanted to supply basic drugs and medicine for chronic illnesses to the main general hospital in each of Iraq's 18 governorates, or provinces, and food to institutions catering for the needy. Iraq has been under full international economic sanctions. imposed by the United Nations Security Council, since Iragi troops invaded Kuwait in August 1990. Medical and food supplies for humanitarian purposes are excluded. Last month, former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, who had just returned from a tour of Iraq during which he visited several hospitals, called for an end to the sanctions which he said were killing more than 2,000 people a week. The federation, a separate body to the Swiss-run International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), said the supplies would be delivered to Iraq from its regional office in Amman. IFRC officials in Baghdad would oversee forwarding of the items to the provinces, where they would be distributed by local Iraqi Red Crescent employees.

Blast rocks Kuwaiti embassy in Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) - An explosion shook the Kuwaiti embassy compound during the night and police said Wednesday it caused no casualties or major damage. The blast occurred in the garden of the fenced compound around midnight (2200 GMT) Tuesday, said a police spokesman. It was not immediately clear if it was caused by a comb planted there or dynamite hurled over the wall. No one claimed responsibility for the attack. The embassy is located on the edge of Beirut, in the Bir Hassan neighbourhood. It is a few hundred metres away from Shatilla, a Palestinian refugee camp. Thousands of Palestinians were kicked out of Kuwait after the 1991 Gulf war in retaliation for the Palestine Liberation Organisation's pro-Iraq sympathies during Iraq's occupation of the emirate. Some 50,000 Lebanese worked in the emirate before it was invaded in August 1990. Of those, 200 have been barred from returning to the emirate mainly because of alleged financial disputes with their

Turkey extends emergency rule

ANKARA (AP) - Parliament Wednesday extended emergency rule for four months in ten eastern and southeastern provinces where separatist Kurdish guerrillas are active. A diluted version of martial law, the emergency rule empowers state-appointed provingovernors to impose curfews, ban meetings and rallies, half strikes and issue search warrants. The guerrillas of the illegal Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) have been fighting for self-rule in the region since 1984. Nearly 6,000 people have been killed since then. Kurds make up about one-fifth of Turkey's population of nearly 60 million. Turkish security forces have recently picked up operations against the rebels in anticipation of PKK-inspired disturbances during the upcoming Kurdish spring festival of Newruz on March 21. Dozens of people were killed in Newruz last year when troops fired on Kurdish demonstrators stoning them. The emergency rule will be in force in the provinces of Sirnak, Batman, Diyarbakir, Dingol, Ditlis, Tunceli, Van, Hakkari, Mardin and Siirt.



Members of the Islamic fundamentalist group Al Gamaa Al Islamia shout slogans upon entering a military court outside Cairo Tuesday (AFP photo)

Filipino maid beaten to death by Kuwaiti employer

KUWAIT (AP) - A young Filipino housemaid has died in hospital a month after she was admitted for injuries from severe beatings by her employer, the Philippines embassy said Wednesday. Sonia G. Panama, 23, died in the intensive care unit at Mubarak Hospital unit Monday, Philippine Labour Attache Lamberto Marin told the Associated Press.

She had been unconscious since Feb. 5, when she was brought to the hospital after brutal beatings.

Mr. Marin did not know how or why she was beaten. "The embassy will definitely

press charges ... we are shocked y these cases of brutality," Mr. Marin said. The official said Kuwaiti police

told the embassy the Kuwaiti employer, Fahad Falah Al Maktoub, was arrested after Ms. Panama was admitted to hospital.

Interior Ministry officials had no immediate comment.

More than 300 Filipino women are jammed into their embassy, awaiting investigations in their cases and possible repatriation. They have run away from their employers because of maltreatment or because they were looking for better paying jobs.

A maid makes between \$100 to \$200 a month, but she can double her income by working as a waitress or a saleswoman and work

far fewer hours. Hundreds of other Asian maids take refuge in their embassies for the same reasons.

Middle East Watch, a New York-based human rights group, said in a report published last year that 2,000 Asian maids "have fled the homes of abusive Kuwaiti employers." The group said many of the women suffered rape, sexual abuse and physical

Mr. Marin said although beatings were common, Ms. Panama's case was exceptionally severe. He said it was the first death to be caused be beating since liberation of the emirate from a seven-month Iraqi occupation two years ago. Ms. Panama was one of

thousands of her countrywomen who were illegally recruited to work in the emirate in spite of the Philippine government ban on its nationals to work in Kuwait as

Recruiting agencies, most of them illegal, get around the ban by taking the women to transit points in other Gulf countries.

"We had one similar case before the invasion and the woman employer was sentenced to jail." Mr. Marin said. "We trust the Kuwait police investigations. They have been very fair and cooperative especially in cases involving physical injuries and rape.

7 killed, 15 wounded in Aswan shootout

CAIRO (AP) - Seven alleged city to prevent a protest march, authorities said Wednesday.

among the bloodiest in more than a decade between security forces and extremists seeking to supplant Egypt's largely secular gov-ernment with an Islamic one.

Saeed Hilmy, Aswan's chief prosecutor, said by telephone that two plainclothes policemen also were wounded, one critically after a builet grazed his heart.

The Tuesday night shootout occurred a few hours after a military court in Cairo began hearing the case against 49 Muslim extremists on terrorist charges including attacks on tour-

Aswan, 980 kilometres south of Cairo, is southern Egypt's second tourist magnet after Luxor, the antiquities-rich city on the site of the ancient capital Thedes.

Aswan features the Philae temples, Elephantine Island abounding in temple relics and the 23year-old Aswan High Dam, built with Soviet aid to harness the Nile River and generate electricity. It also is the jumping-off point for the famed Abu Simbel temples of Pharaoh Ramses II

and his wife, Queen Nefertari.
President Hosni Mubarak often makes short, quick vacations to Aswan. His last visit ended two weeks before the gun-

Mr. Hilmy said the shooting was at Al Rahman Mosque, a favourite extremist haunt in downtown Aswan. It began after evening prayers and iftar.

"Police received a tip that the extremists planned to gather at the mosque for discussions, then march on the streets in an antigovernment demonstration," Mr. Hilmy said, "Acting on the information, police surrounded the mosque to prevent the demonstration. The exchange of fire

He said he did not know who shot first, but the firing continued for several hours."

It was violence on the largest Muslim extremists died and at scale since more than 80 people least 15 were wounded in a gunfight with police who surrounded an extremist uprising two days a mosque in a southern tourist after militants assassinated Presdent Anwar Sadat in Cairo in 1981. That abortive coup was in The battle in Aswan, a tourist attraction and winter resort, was

trend of heightened extremist activity in the last year. Prior to Tuesday night, an AP tally showed 15 dead and 33 wounded in extremist related violence since Jan. 1. Last year, 80 people were killed and more than 130

Mr. Hilmy said the Aswan mosque has been cleared. Security forces cordoned it off. The shootout climaxed a secur-

ity operation police launched in Aswan after extremist gunmen last Saturday killed one policeman and wounded another guarding a church in Aswan. The assailants escaped with the victims' firearms. Police said they have arrested some 30 suspects in the dragnet, which is continuing.

After Sadat's slaying Muslim extremists usually targeted government officials, policemen and Coptic Christians and their property. As part of last year's stepped up operations, they attacked for the first time foreign tourists to dissuade visitors from coming to Egypt and deprive the government of its top foreign exchange

Revenues from tourism plummeted by up to 70 per cent since last fall when a British woman died and two other Britons and five Germans were wounded in two separate attacks in southern

In a twist to a nationwide hunt for extremists under way since November, police in the southern city of Al Minya arrested a wanted extremist disguised as pious woman covering her face with a veil. The man, identified as primary school teacher Mohammad Ösman Abu Rihab, was seized at a railway station.

The state-owned newspaper Al Ahram, which reported the arrest, said Abu Rihab told police he disguised himself so as to watch his wife's movements unnoticed.

Exiles said to direct Egypt's Muslim militants

government forces are partly directed by leaders in exile in Afghanistan and Pakistan. according to former Interior Minister Hassan Abu Pasha.

Mr. Abu Pasha, who led a big ciampdown on militants after the 1981 murder of President Anwar Sadat and was himself the target of an assassination attempt in 1987, said some militant leaders had been in Afghanistan and Pakistan since 1981.

"They're quite organised. I believe part of the militant leadership is abroad, giving instructions to the militants inside," he told Reuters in an interview.

"There has always been contact between them. The focus on tourists is certainly planned by a higher leadership.

Egypt's main militant movement Al Gama'a Al Islamiya (Islamic Group), recently sent a statement from Peshawar, a Pakistani town on the border with Afghanistan. The statement warned that the campaign against tourism could be followed by attacks on foreign businesses.

Its spiritual leader and most obvious foreign connection is a blind preacher living in New Jersey, Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman. He was tried but acquitted on charges of sanctifying the Sadat assassination.

Two of his alleged followers have been charged in connection with the bombing of the World Trade Centre in New York last

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

London, Berlin (RJ) Abu Dhabi (RJ)

Jeddah (RI)

Riyadh (SU)

... Athens, Larnaca (RJ)
.... Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)

Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)

18:25 18:30

CAIRO (R) - Egyptian Muslim month. Sheikh Abdul Rahman militants attacking foreigners and has denied any link with the blast. Mr. Abu Pasha said Sheikh

Abdul Rahman was a member of the 12-man "mailis shoura" of consultative council which guides the Gama'a general command. Militant leaders based between Afghanistan and Pakistan included Ayman Zawahri, one of

the leaders of the Jihad (holy struggle) group responsible for the Sadat killing, he added. The Gama'a and Jihad were separate, allied organisations during the late 1970s. After the Sadat killing, the Jihad was crushed by security forces and

militant activity since then has been largely channelled through the Gama'a Mr. Abu Pasha said Mr. Zawahri was sentenced to seven years in prison for weapons offences and having links with Sadat's killers but was freed in 1988. He went to Afghanistan but

remained in contact with militants in Egypt. Mohammad Shawki Islambuli, brother of hte man who led Sadat's assassins, is described by sympathisers as one of the brains behind the group and some Egyptian media reports have said he is

also in Afghanistan. Last December, a military court sentenced Mr. Islambuli 10 death in his absence.

Afghanistan and Pakistan are natural bases for Muslim groups. Militants from various Arab countries, including Egypt, fought alongside Afghan rebels.

Beitul (ME)

Larnaca, Vicana (OS)
Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)

TK)

Stranded South Africans appeal for work in Kuwait fence Ministry. "We've written to the Kuwaiti BAHRAIN (AP) — Thirty men made their way back home. suddenly found their escort was

Khartoum last month made no apparent progress but a joint committee agreed to meet again in Cairo at an unspecified date. In his televised statement, Mr.

Omar said the university seizure "did not mean disruption of in debt. cultural exchanges with Egypt." He said Sudan "will pursue a new course of relations based on exchange of teachers, students and

group are knocking on doors in Egypt's government-owned the hope that they may still land a Middle East News Agency said the university was attended by 25,000 students, mostly Sudanese. It said Egypt spent 55 million Egyptian pounds annually \$16.5 million) to operate it. It

They were allegedly conned into signing on to work on reconstruction of a war-damaged refinery and offshore oil rig repairs in post-Gulf war Kuwait. Clauses in their contracts swore them to secrecy because the work sup-posedly involved the Kuwaiti De-

later." said 55-year-old Thomas Murray of Dunbee.

The men, stranded since Friday, are members of a group that originally numbered 42, lured by promises of pay worth more than \$100,000 a year. Twelve have

They said they were recruited by a company called Offshore Hosova Japan Corporation, with offices in Tokyo, Bangkok and

They paid \$2,000 required of them in South Africa, then were escorted each with \$5,000 in travellers checks to be turned over in Bangkok, where they were supposed to get their visas for Kuwait.

In Bangkok, they were told they did not need Kuwait entry

not with them. "We're strong men, no nervous

breakdowns here, but it knocked the heart out of us," said Nico isolation and sanctions.

much, we overlooked so much, said Shane Crompton, 27, also of

loans to contend with, some had sold homes and other possessions to be able to afford the money

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
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19:00 News in Frenc
19:15 Intertropique 19:30 News in Hebrer
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20:36
21:10 Forever Gree
22-60 News in English
22:20 Feature film: "Fire in the Dark
PRAYER TIMES

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CHURCHES St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifich Tel. 810740 Assemblies of God Church, Tel. St. Joseph Church Tci. 624590.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

4a Church Tcl: 622366 623541. Anglican Church Tcl. 625383, Tcl. 625383. Armenian Catholic Church Tcl. 771331. enian Orthodox Church Tel. St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Amman International Church Tel. 827961. 683326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 824328.

estimated the value of university

assets at 35 million pounds \$10.5

WEATHER

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. (22824 and 654932.

rch of the Nazarene Tcl. 675091.

Bulletin supplied by the Department of It will be relatively cold and partly cloudy there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain, particularly in the northern parts of Jordan, Winds will be northwesterly moderate. freshening at times. In Aquba, winds

from South Africa were victims of an apparent scam that left them stranded in Bahrain, their jobs back home lost and most of them

As they wait for their foreign office to at least pay their return home fares, members of the ambassador and some companies in Bahrain are also trying to help us find jobs, even return to them

"I am actually devastated, lost 22,000 rands (about \$7,000), I have no job anymore, and I'll probably have to sell my house, which is mortgaged, to be able to

settle my debt and live, along with my wife, until I find a job."

visas. On a flight to Bahrain from where they were told they would pick up helicopters straight for the oil fields of Kuwait - they

Pienaar, 37 of New Castle. "We South Africans are obviously very gullible because of the years of "Everyone wanted the job so

New Castle. "Now we have to go back home to face the music." Most of them now have bank

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

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Yesterday's high temperature man 12, Aqaba 22, Humidity re Amman 50 per cent. Aqaba cent.	s: Ar ading 40 p

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN: Dr. Yahya Abdul Rahcem
IRBID: Dr. Maron Alm Raker

Al Quds pharmacy (-)

am Hiyasat (—) **EMERGENCIES** Civil Defence Department 661111

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Rescue
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Fire Brigade
Fire property
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage
Complete #07447
Complaints 897467
Azuman Municipality
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information
(directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calks 010230
Central Amman Telephone
Repairs 623101
And Production Product 44100
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Iordan Television773111
Radio Jordan

Electric Power 636381 light Information 08-53200 en Alia Intl, Airport..... 08-53200 HOSPITALS

AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre
Army, Marka 891611/15
Oucen Alia Hospital 60224050
Amal Hospital 674155
ZAROA:
Zarqa Govt, Hospital (09)983323
Zarga National Hospital (09)900560
[bn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990
ATTEMATICAL (03/30/20)

Princess Basma Hospital ... (02)275555 Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275 Ibn Al Nafces Hospital (02)247100 Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111 FOR THE TRAVELLER

> This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RI) information depart-ment at the Oueen Alia International ABRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) Riyadh (RJ) Cairo, Aqaba (RJ) New Delhi (RJ)

17:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

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INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) Montreal, Toronto (R1)
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other Briefin



His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday received Her Majesty Queen Noor upon her arrival at Amman airport. Queen Noor has just concluded a several day visit to Germany, where she attended the inauguration of Berlin International Tourism Exchange. The Queen also attended a reception hosted by the German-Jordanian Friendship Society to mark the society's 40th anniversary. Also receiving the Queen were several of Their Royal Highnesses the Princes and

Crown Prince hosts Iftar for retired NCOs

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Organisation for Retired Service-Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday hosted an Iftar banquet in honour of retired noncommissioned officers at the Royal non-commissioned Officers Academy.

Prince Hassan conveyed to them His Majesty King Hussein's pride in them and underlined the importance of their role in serv-

ing the Kingdom.

The Crown Prince also stressed the need to activate the role of the Jordan Economic and Social

men (JESORS) by supporting it in establishing agricultural and industrial projects to curb unemployment among retired service-

The banquet was attended by the assistant chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for Human Resources, the director of JESORS, and several army offic-

Prince Hassan and the guests performed the Maghreb prayers

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Chilean president

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday sent a cable to Chilean President Patricio Aylwin Ozocar congratulating him on the anniversary of his assumption of the presidency. King Hussein wished Mr. Ozocar good health and happiness and the Chilean people further progress and prosperity.

Sharif Zeid inaugurates new charity

AMMAN (Petra) - Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Wednesday inaugurated the Eibal Charitable Society in Jabal Al Hussein. The chairman of the society's administrative committee, Samih Makkawi, briefed Sharif Zeid on the objectives of the society and its future plans. Mr. Makkawi presented the prime minister with the society's shield in appreciation of his role in supporting charity and voluntary work in Jordan. The mauguration ceremony was attended by several ministers and deputies.

Shoman foundation, Wihdat Club open film week

AMMAN (Petra) - The Cinema Committee of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation and the Windat Club Wednesday began a film week at the club. The films include "Palestine — the Record of a People" by Palestinian director Qais Al Zubeidi, "The Big Question," by Iraqi director Mohammad Shukri, "A war Laboratory" and "Why?" by German director Monica

NHF to open Jubilee School in August

AMMAN (Petra) - Preparations are underway at Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) to open the Jubilee School in August, according to School Headmaster Fathi Jarwan. Dr. Jarwan said NHF is currently working with Ministry of Education officials to brief them on its plans and future policies for admitting gifted and academically distinguished students. NHF will also brief the education officials on criteria for the selection of the first group of students. Dr. Jarwan said the Jubilee School will accept 600 students drawn from the various parts of Jordan, including 100 students from the Greater Amman area. The announcement about the establishment of the school came in November 1985, to mark Jordan's celebrations of His Majesty King Hussein's

JUST acting president meets with German envoy

RAMTHA (Petra) — Acting president of the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) Saad Hijazi met Wednesday with the German cultural attache in Amman and discussed with him scopes of cooperation between Jordanian and German universities in scientific and cultural fields.

Irbid police chief urges curbing crime

IRBID (Petra) - Director of the Irbid Police Department Brigadier General Hashem Al Qaisi Wednesday met with members of Al Karmel Club and Azmi Al Mufti Refugee Camp citizens. Brig.-Gen. Qaisi talked at the meeting which was held at the club about the role of citizens in curbing the number of crimes. He stressed the importance of bolstering relations between policemen and citizens.

Traffic accidents up last week

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 11 people were killed and 144 were injured in 406 traffic accidents in Jordan last week, according to Public Security Department (PSD) sources. The sources said last week's accidents registered an increase of 11 over the week before. They added that 35 per cent of the accident victims were under 10 years of age, followed by the 21-30 age group, who accounted for 24.3 per cent of the total number of casualties. The sources blamed wreckless driving, tailgating, loss of control of vehicles, speeding, wrong over-taking and nonadherence to the traffic regulations as the main reasons for the

Arab writers to hold symposium in Tripoli

AMMAN (Petra) - Secretary General of the Arab Writers Federation Fakhri Kawar has extended invitations to Arab writers associations to attend the symposium on the Arab novel, which will be held in Tripoli, Libya, on May 18. The symposium will discuss a number of issues including Arab novel realism, modern novel, challenges facing novel writing and the humanitarian dimension in the Arab novel, in addition to children's novels.

Islamists win 87% of university student council seats

By Sausan Ghosheh

Special to the Jordan Times AMMAN - An Islamist coalition swept through Monday's student council elections at the University of Jordan, securing 71 of 80 seats, according to final results announced Wednesday.

The strong showing of the Islamists appeared to have taken even the coalition activists by surprise. Prior to the election results, members of the Islamic Coalition had predicted that they would only win around 50 seats, which would have been a regression from the 64 seats they held in the last council.

They had attributed this expected decrease to the growth of a more organised Jordanian nationalist bloc. The Nationalist Alliance projected to win 40 seats, was only able to capture

The leftists, who only participated in the elections by supporting independents, said that three of their "close friends" managed to reach the council.

The other three seats in the council were filled by students who ran as independents. But sources say that all those who ran as independents were supported by one of the two main coalitions. the Islamists or the nationalists. Support for independents was also provided by leftists and the university administration, they

Dean of Student Affairs at the University of Jordan Mohammad Khreisat said 60.83 per cent of the students voted, which is an average of 0.2 per cent more than the previous year. He explained that although the percentage of those who voted decreased in all the colleges, an increase in voting

by the Pharmaceutical College resulted in the increase of the total percentage.

Dr. Khreisat declined to give official results on the percentage each coalition acquired, refusing to acknowledge that the students ran in coalitions.

University students have complained to the Jordan Times that the atmosphere at the University of Jordan has become tense because relations between Jordanian and students of Palestinian origin and between Jordanians from different regions have become strained. This, they attributed as the main reason for the

Ibrahim Hatabeh, a member of the Jordanian Democratic Youth League (RASHAD) and a leftist student at the University of Jordan, said the leftists on campus approached the Islamist Coalition

By a Jordan Times

Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government

and bakery owners in Jordan

have reached a compromise

agreement to settle their dispute

over recent price hikes of bread

and flour and avert a threatened

al commitment to the findings

and recommendations of a study

to be conducted by the Royal

Scientific Society (RSS) on the

now averts a protest action plan-ned for March 13 by the bakers,

Mr. Hamawi told the Jordan

The proposed RSS study,

The compromise involves a tot-

strike by the bakers.

Owners in Jordan.

to form an alliance against the "tribalism" of the Nationalist Alliance.

The Islamists, according to Mr. Hatabeh, refused, explaining that the leftists were late in their request.

Some Islamist candidates. however, said that there were agreements between their coalition and the leftists in some col-

Most students interviewed by the Jordan Times said they believed regional tensions had caused problems in the Nationalist Alliance and led to its division, and thus further strengthening the Islamists.

The said it was obvious that some members of the Nationalist Alliance voted for students from their respective cities who were also members of the Islamist

The programmes of the different coalitions were quite similar; purely academic, with minimum reference to their political ideologies. But observers say that students' choices were based on

political preferences. In addition some observers are analysing the results of the student council elections to see if they can arrive at indicators for the upcoming parliamentary elec-

A total of 12,839 of 21,169 students voted in the university elections; most of them are also eligible to vote in the parliamen-

tary elections this year.
In addition, 15 females, most of them Islamists secured seats on the council.

Observers say this may be an indication that the Islamists might nominate women to run for the 12th parliament.

apparent in the student council elections, sources say. At least two reminder slips were made for each coalition. For example, one included the names of candidates who are members of the Islamic coalition; the other listed the Islamic coalition candidates and the independent candidates they claimed they supported. But copies of these reminder slips which were made available to the Jordan Times showed that the one that the Islamic Coalition distributed to the independent candidates' supporters bore his/ her name, but the copy given out to their own supporters did not.

Campaign tricks were also

The barter for votes technique may have thus been one-sided, with the independents giving their votes to Islamist candidates but receiving no Islamist votes in

Princess Basma inspects charity drive near Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal kindergarten run by the Arab Highness Princess Basma Fund for Child Welfare, and the Wednesday toured several areas Souf Community Rehabilitation surrounding Amman following up on the charity campaign being implemented in various parts of the Kingdom to raise funds for Refugees (URNWA). poor families.

In Sahab, the first stop on the Princess tour, she laid the foundation stone of the social service centre established by Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAF) to provide basic social needs for citizens in Sahab and neighbouring areas.

Sahab's centre brings to 40 the number of such centres set up by

Princess Basma also supervised the distribution of in-kind assistance to some 700 needy families. including 500 families in Sahab itself. The Princess then visited Souf camp where she inspected a the Zarqa governor.

Centre for the Disabled, which is run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine

Princess Basma met with people from Souf camp and listened to their demands, in terms of social services for children. women and the disabled. She also supervised the distribution of inkind assistance to 300 families.

The last stop on her tour was Zarga, where she met with the boysconts, and girl guides who took part in the fund-raising activities, organised under the charity campaign.

Princess Basma thanked the scouts and girl guides for their contribution to the campaign. The meeting was attended by

Bakers, government mediately after the holy month of Ramadan, "will focus on every aspect of the baking industry in Jordan and hopefully come up with an unbiased and realistic assessment on the actual costs that we

bakers pay to produce bread."

According to Mr. Hamawi, the government had been rejecting bakers' complaints that they were denied a "fair margin of profits" by refusing to accept "many elements of expenses" as legitimate costs of production.

baking industry in Jordan, said Abed Ilah Al Hamawi, president of the Association of Bakery "Our costs have gone up in every aspect, be it power, water, sugar and other ingredients, The Ministry of Supply and wages, administrative expenses representatives of the association and machinery maintenance," he have signed the agreement, which

"We raised the subject with the government on many occasions in the past years, but our arguments were totally rejected," he said. "We are only exercising our right to ensure that we get a fair

margin of profit as any other industry in Jordan," said Mr. Hamawi.

The dispute flared after the government increased the prices of subsidised bread and flour early this year and the bakers complained that the increases were not proportionate. The bakers, argued that while they had to pay 30 per cent more for flour, the price for bread was raised by 12 per cent, and thus the baking industry was absorbing the major

sign compromise

part of the hike. Several compromise formulas were discussed, but no solution could be found to address the grievances of the bakers. The Association of Bakers in Jordan held a general assembly meeting on Feb.12 and served notice on the government that they would start a protest action after 28 days

if no equitable solution was found to address their problem.

which included a revocation of the bakers' decision to launch a protest action, was thrashed out

by a mediation committee. No government comment was available on the agreement, but officials confirmed that the accord was reached.

According to Mr. Hamawi, one of the key stipulations in the agreement is that both sides would be "firmly committed to abiding by the findings of the study and implementing the recommendations that the RSS would offer.'

The association, which has 1,247 bakeries as its members, ensured such a commitment from all bakers by including representatives from all the eight governorates as signatories to the accord, he said.

"We can safely say that the problem is on its way to a solution which will be fair and just to all The compromise agreement, sides," Mr. Hamawi said

Women's panel urges creation of |TCC hopes to meet most Amman national women's rights society

in a panel discussion organised by the Amnesty International's (AI) Women's Committee, Tuesday recommended the creation of a national society to defend women's rights.

At a one-day discussion held at the Royal Cultural Centres (RCC) to mark International Women's Day, participants stressed the need to establish such a society, comprising both men and

They also called for forming a national committee to include members of AI Jordan and representatives of the Jordan chapter of the Arab Organisation for Human Rights (AOHR), as well as representatives of women's organisations and political and

social activists in the country. The committee's role, as envisaged by participants, is to prepare

Dentists call

for national

study dental

health status

AMMAN (Petra) - Participants

in a two-day symposium on de-ntal health education Wednesday

concluded their meetings with a

call for undertaking studies aimed

at assessing dental health prob-

lems, measuring the percentage of flouride in the water supply

and comparing it with interna-tional standards approved by the

World Health Organisation

Participants adopted a number

of recommendations designed to improve dental health education

and promote awareness of dental

care and preventive measures.

They recommended the forma-

tion of a national committee to

include representatives of the

Ministry of Health, the Jordanian

Dentists Association, faculties of

Dentistry at the University of

Jordan and the Jordan University

of Science and Technology, the

United Nations Relief and Works

Agency for Palestine Refugees

The committee will be en-

trusted with drafting a statistical

plan of action and assessing the

They also called for involving

large numbers of students in pre-

ventive care activities, and stres-

sed the need for providing dental

(UNRWA) and WHO.

dental health problem.

supervision at schools.

(WHO).

panel to

action for the Vienna convention, to be held later this year.

Addressing Tuesday's celebrations were Asma Khader, Labib Kamhawi and Zulaikhah Abu Reesheh. Their discussions dwelt on women's rights, the special status of women in the Arab World the legislation in force at the local and regional Arab levels, and the relevance of such relations to international charters and conventions on rights.

Most participants agreed that women's rights are an inseparable part of human rights and that every possible effort should be made to correct the injustices inflicted upon women.

On social recognition of women's rights, participants spoke of two types of recognition:

AMMAN (Petra) - Participants a draft resolution and plan of theoretical and practical recognition, saying that there was a large gap between the theoretical and practical recognition.

> rights of women to a nationality and a passport, access to family planning, as well as other sub-They stressed the need to form

Participants also debated the

pressure groups to ensure the enactment of laws giving equal rights and treatment to men and

Al accords special importance to human rights issues and the defence of women. In 1991, it launched a campaign to discuss the status of women. In 1992, AI also mounted another campaign focusing on women victims of rape, sexual exploitation, severe punishment and other forms of maltreatment.

Ministries, credit group to start

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Planning Secretary General Safwan Tougan Wednesday said the ministry, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) will implement a \$19.7 million project, aimed at diver-

families working in agriculture. Dr. Tougan said the project's costs will be shared by the Arab Fund for Agricultural Development (AFAD) and the Internaqan said AFAD will provide \$8 million and IFAD will provide

The project will cover rural Karak, Tafileh, and Maan.

\$19.7m agricultural project News Agency, (Petra), Dr. Tou-

sifving sources of income for poor

tional Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

areas in the governorates of Amman, Irbid, Balqa, Mafraq,

The project involves importing goats and developing animal wealth, planting trees, producing fodder, developing food processing, and encouraging dairy pro-

CONDOLENCES

The editor and staff of the Jordan Times deeply mourn the passing of

Mr. Izzat Mohammad Al Aloul uncle of their friend and colleague Miss Masa Aloul. May his soul rest in peace.

AMBASCIATA D'ITALIA DIPARTIMENTO CULTURALE Indagine statistica a fine conoscitiva degli Italofoni residenti nel Regno Hascemita di Giordania

Al fine di una programmazione culturale del Dipartimento si invitano tutti i professionisti laureati in Italia, persone che hanno studiato, frequentato corsi e/o usufruito di borse di studio, lavorato, viaggiato frequentemente in Italia, appassionati della cultura Italiana, ecc., a far pervenire cortesemente, e al più presto possibile, i seguenti dati: Nome, indirizzo, telefono, anno di nascita, anno di laurea. luogo degli studi, attività svolta in Giordania, indirizzo e telefono sede lavoro. Numero ed età dei figli, loro scuola in Giordania, indicazione (con nome e provenienza) del

coniuge. Tutte le notizie che si riconoscano utili.

(Si prega scrivere a macchina o in stampatello ed indirizzare a questa Ambasciata, P.O. Box 9800, all 'attenzione del prof. E. Minardo).

applications by end of this year The Abdali exchange, which

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) hopes to meet a major part of pending applications for tele-phone lines in Amman by the end of the year with an expansion programme involving 13,000 new connections, a senior TCC official said Wednesday.

The expansion programme will the exchange in Waldi Seer and Marka and 3,000 lines to Sweileh. The three facilities are now "closed" to new subscribers, meaning no new lines are available, and therefore have the highest number of pending applications.

Ahmad Al Omari, head of the Public Relations Department of the TCC, said the Greater Amman area had a backlog of 22,734 applications by the end of 1992.

Total pending applications from all over the Kingdom was 71,520. Marka topped the Greater Amman areas in the list of demand, with 6,765 applications, followed by Hai Nazzal (3,665) and Wadi Seer (3,500), he said.

serves a major part of Shmeisani, has only 500 applicants while central Amman (downtown area) had 450 and Ashrafiyeh had

Mr. Omari said all exchanges except the three "closed" ones had available lines and were providing new connections according to the waiting list. He could not give dates of applications now being met, saying they varied

Shopkeepers in Gardens Street, arguably witnessing the latest boom in commerical activities in Amman, have complained that they are facing great difficulties to conduct business in the absence of telephone lines. Mr. Omari indicated that

Abdali II exchange, which covers the Gardens Street area, is installing available lines following the list of priority in the waiting list, but it could not be rushed. Jordan has 289,000 telephone subscribers. In Amman alone,

the number is 166,434. The TCC is unable to meet applications for carphones since the 1,460-line mobile phone facil-

The corporation now plans to allow the private sector to invest

in mobile phone systems rather t than allocating its own funds to expand the present facility, he said. He did not give details. Charges for new telephone connections and subscription are:

Residences: JD146 in installation charges, including JD6 in "university" levy and JD15 in deposit. Excluded is the annual

subscription charge of JD28. — Commercial institutions: JD250 in installation charges, including JD6 in "university" levy and JD75 deposit. Annual subscription JD60.

- Carphones: JD1,280 in installation charges, and JD500 annual subscription.

In all cases, non-Jordanians have to pay an additional deposit of JD500.

Mr. Omari said the corporation was launching new projects worth JD300 million slated for completion by the end of 1997. The projects involve a national expansion of telephone networks by 260,000 new lines and an overall ity with a 30-kilometre range is upgrading of facilities.

Another Innovation FROM AIR FRANCE

THE CREATION OF THE "HUB" WITH THE OPENING OF TERMINAL 2C AT PARIS CHARLES DE GAULLE AIRPORT ON THE 28th OF MARCH. AIR FRANCE flights to Paris from Amman will operate at

CHARLES DE GAULLE AIRPORT new terminal 2C . as from its opening day on 28 March '93, where connections to USA except Concorde), MEXICO, ASIA and the PACIFIC will also operate Terminal 2C has been especially designed to accommodate Air France Long-haul flights. It's 20 per cent larger than the other three terminals already in operation. Relaxation areas (including those for children) have been provided and waiting lounges are twice as spacious.

A new Automated Baggage Sorting System will considerably reduce handling time as well as the risk of routing errors.

Terminal 2C has been designed with a view to facilitating connections between CDG terminals 2A, 2B, 2D where other Air France group flights and those of its partners operate.

With the opening of terminal 2C, Charles De Gaulle Airport, already Air France's Gateway, will become its "HUB." This is a simple concept consisting of air routes organized in a star-shaped network around a large airport serving as the "HUB."

This is another step forward for the comfort and pleasure of Air France's



EXHIBITIONS ★ Exhibition of handicrafts by Jordanian artist Dana Ahmad Khreis at the Royal Cultural

WHAT'S GOING ON

* Exhibition entitled "The Present Islamic World in Photos and News" at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST).

Chairman of the Board of Directors: MAHMOUD AL KAYED Director Ceneral:

MOHAMMAD AMAD **Editor-in-Chief:**

GEORGE'S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices: Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan. Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

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Intimidation is undemocratic

THE VOTE of the Lower House of Parliament Wednesday against a bill to segregate sexes at schools was the outcome of a classic exercise of the democratic process: Some deputies proposed the bill, the House discussed it; the majority voted against it and the proposal was killed.

But what happened outside the domed building of the House after the vote was a frightening act of intolerance, demagoguery and failure to accept the rules of democracy.

Some deputies from the Muslim Brotherhood bloc came awfully close to physically attacking Deputy Faris Nabulsi at the end of the session for no other reason but that he disagreed with their views. These Brotherhood deputies insulted Mr. Nabulsi with profanities, displaying flagrant disrespect for a fellow parliamentarian, the Jordanian Parliament and the people Mr. Nabulsi represents.

On its own merits such behaviour is alarming. But it rings extra loud because of the fearful implications that it has for the future of this country should thepeople who perpetrated it come to power.

Verbal assaults of this nature should be condemned by all Jordanians who are determined to live in a society that accommodates the views of all and the ruling of the majority.

The simple and clear message of this behaviour is that all the talk about tolerance and pluralism by some parties is but empty rhetoric used as a tactic to penetrate the echelons of power. If yesterday's outbursts are an example of what some elected officials might do if they actually hold the reigns in the future, one can only shiver at the gloomy prospects for our young democracy.

The Jordanian people should study this incident carefully and reassess their perception of all political orientations in its light. And the deputies who insulted their colleague should be reminded that the people will not sit idle when they try to intimidate others into adopting their views.

Mr. Nabulsi was reflecting the opinions of thousands of Jordanians opposed to the ban on co-education. Those people have as much right to express themselves as do the members of the Muslim Brotherhood and their supporters.

Deputies who did not subscribe to the Brotherhood views accepted the will of the majority at the House in many cases before. The Brotherhood deputies should learn to do that too.

The deputies who lashed insults at Mr. Nabulsi Wednesday owe him, his constituency and all Jordanians an apology. And the Jordanian people owe it to themselves, their country and the future of their democracy to speak out strongly against intolerance and intimidation.

What happened Wednesday is an incident that they should vividly remember this summer when they go to the polls to elect their new representatives.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AS THE United States and Russia, the co-sponsors of the Middle East peace talks, are expected to issue invitations to the parties to the Arab-Israeli talks, no signs of progress in implementing U.N. Security Council 720 on returning the Palestinian on returning the Palestinian offing, Al Ra'i Arabic daily said in an editorial Wednesday. The newspaper quoted Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres as saying that his country's stand on the expellees remains unchanged. This position, the newspaper said, is represented in substituting resolution 799 with the Israeli-American deal which only calls for returning 101 of the more than 400 expelled Palestinians. This indicates that Israel is keen to obstruct the peace negotiations and prevent their resumption as scheduled becuase it chose to make of the expellees issue an obstacle in the way of resuming the talks, Al Ra'i said. It added that if Washington and Moscow extend invitations to the concerned parties to attenu the talks this does not exempt them from the responsibility of resolving the issue of the deportees. Even the two capitals' reluctance to remove this impediment from the path of peace does not mean that the ball is in the Palestinians' court, every one knows that this is an Israeli obstacle, and that the ball is in Israel's court now, said the newspaper. It concluded by saying that time was ripe now to swiftly resolve the problem of the expellees in a manner that conforms to international legitimacy and allows the ninth round of Middle East peace talks to resume

AL DUSTOUR Arabic daily commented in an editorial on Tuesday's Palestinian-British meeting in London, describing it as being important regardless of its outcome. The newspaper said it was the first such meeting at such a high ministerial level between the government of British Prime Minister John Major and a Palestinian delegation comprising representatives of Palestinians from the occupied territories as well as those of the diaspora. In addition, Al Dustour added, the meeting signifies the easing of restrictions on high-level diplomatic contacts with the Palestinians. Furthermore, the meeting might be the beginning of a series of similar diplomatic contacts between the Palestine Liberation Organisation and influential Western states, including the U.S. administration, the newspaper continued. Al Dustour commended the role of the British government in arranging for the meeting, adding that this measure shows increasing indications of Europe's desire to play a more active role in the peace By Safwan Bataineh

THE COMMON belief that private ownership and investment lead to better management and more marketable products has become an axiom of modern economic thinking as mounting evidence of the poor quality of public sector investment and output became irrefutable proof. The collapse of centrally controlled economies and the failure of the Swedish model of a mixed economy finally ended the debate in favour of market-based economic policies.

Jordan, which proclaimed itself a free economy back when socialism was still in vogue, finds itself behind most nations in liberalising the eco-nomy and in adopting a market-based approach to economic growth. A disproportionately large and powerful public sector, determined to maintain access to corporate appointments, has proved itself a formidable adversary

to attempts at privatisation.
Yet the case for privatisation in Jordan is as strong as anywhere else. The following sets of comparative statistics should provide ample ammunition to liberal policy makers if and when they decide to wage another round of battle.

The first comparison (Table 1) is made between government controlled companies (over 40 per cent of the shares are held by the public sector) and shareholding companies with no significant government holdings (below 15 per cent of shares).

The comparison, which looks at

profitability over a 10 year period and at employment generation, covers all non-financial shareholding companies that were in operation in or before 1984 and are still in business today. Because of the lack of published financial information, compar listed on the Amman Stock Exchange were not included in the samples. The sole exception is Royal Jordanian whose financial reports are readily

available.
The second comparison (Table 2) looks at sales growth, investment, labour productivity as well as profitability and employment generation. It measures the performance of manufacturing shareholding companies with significant government ownership (more than 15 per cent) in nship to other manufacturers over two periods - from 1981 to 1990 and from 1986 to 1990. Here, the comparison covers all manufacturing shareholding companies (excluding mining) that were in operation at least two years before the beginning of the period and are still in business

The results are distressing, espe-cially in view of the large size of ent controlled assets.

In 1990, government controlled shareholding companies accounted for 85 per cent of the assets of all service companies listed on the stock exchange and 60 per cent of the assets of listed manufacturers. When the assets of Royal Jordanian are added, the total assets of all governmentowned firms in (Table 1) amount to three times the assets of all other nonfinancial shareholding companies

It is truly tragic that the government could not earn a single plaster from the employment of all these from 1984 to 1988 (before the fall of the Jordanian dinar magnified the

The case for privatisation in Jordan

value of mixing exports and produced windfall profits in JD terms). During the same period, private sector firms earned 21 per cent on the assets they

employed.

The comparisons reveal an amazing degree of incompetency on the part of government-owned companies. De-spite the fact that many of them are pure monopolies and that some of them can set artificially high prices, and despite their ability to access cheap credit and obtain government marantees on loans, these company lagged behind their private sector counterparts in every performance criterion the writer could think of.

and by a wide margin. Private sector compani ter, invested more, earned higher returns, achieved larger productivity gains, and generated more employ-ment for each dinar worth of invest-

The 10 year period chosen for the study brought in as much data as possible without risking a severe reduction in the size of the samples. In addition, each comparison included a five year period in order to measure the effect of the recession on performance. This was done in the second comparison mostly to test managerial ability, which accounts for much during times of hardship. Unexpectedly, the performance of

private sector manufacturing companies actually improved during the recession while that of government-owned firms worsened substantially. The data supports the textbook rationale for privatisation, which we understand to include the following

1) Private owners are motivated primarily by the desire to maximise the returns on their investments. To achieve this objective, private owners will install the most capable manage-

In a competitive environment, management will seek to maximise profits by increasing productivity and improving the marketability (i.e. the quality or price competitiveness) of goods and services. The aggregate effort of profit-minded producers, operating under conditions of free competition, will lead to higher and more sustainable growth rates, higher incomes, and more opportunities for permanent employment.

2) Privatisation leads to a more efficient allocation of resources in the economy. Unlike government, private investors will not pour money into bad investments just to prevent a business from going under. Instead, their money will chase after business opportunities with the brightest prospects. At the same time, private investors are less likely to fail because they are more sensitive to changes in consumer demands and tastes and more cost-conscious. The net result is higher returns on aggregate investment and more permanent increases in output.

3) Public sector investments, on the other hand, will generate initial increases in both output and employment. But because of the poor qu of such investments, the high failure rate, and the tendency to subsidise failure, state enterprises eventually become a drain on public resources, productive uses. Privatisation can put an end to this TABLE 1

	Government owned companies	Private sector companies
No. of companies	13	23
Total average assets 1981-1990	990,245,000 JD	197,066,990 JD
Average annual pre-tax return on assets 1981-1990	2.0%	6.8%
Total profits (loss) 1984-1988	(54,460,606) · JD	22,540,000 JD
Total profits (loss) As % of total average assets	(5.5%)	21.1%
No. of employees per one million JD of investment	10.2	28.0 .
	TABLE 2	

	Manufacturing companies with significant govt. ownership	Manufacturing companies with no significant govt. ownership
Sales growth 1981-1990	94,6%	188.0%
Sales growth 1986-1990	35.8%	167.0%
Fixed assets growth 1981-1990	39.0%	87.0%
Fixed assets growth 1986-1990	(22.9%)	1.0%
Average annual pre-tax return on assets 1981-1990	3.6%	7.1%
Average annual pre-tax return on assets 1986-1990	3.0%	9.2%
Output per inbour growth 1981-1999	35.0%	83.9%
No. of employees per one million ID of investment	16.0	29.7 .

It is important to recognise that the government tendency to subsidise faihere (or mask true performance with subsidies) exists regardless of own-ership. Enterprises initiated, controlled (through legal and administrative links), or financed by the state can also become recipients to costly sub-

A privatisation programme, there-fore, must address all aspects of the state involvement with commerical entities. Even the carrying out of feasibility studies by state agencies can entail a moral obligation on the part of government to rescue an operation that came into existence as a result of an overly optimistic feasibility study.

4) Private investors are understand-

are also reluctant to enter a sector where government is likely to provide financial and other incentives or subsidies on a selective basis.

A privatisation programme that brings an end to government interference in a given sector and succeeds in convincing investors that conditions of free competition will prevail would courage a level of private investment that is commenarate with the expected returns for the sector.

Thus, in order to encourage the growth of private investment and to hance both productivity and the quality of output, Jordan should adopt a privatisation programme that aims for the following objectives simultaneously:

1) To divest the public sector of all ably reluctant to face competition ing and utilities). This should cover out a timetable for implementa-from a state-owned enterprise. They both direct ownership and legal and tion, and devise a thorough and for the Jordan Times

2) To end direct public sector inrestment in commercial enterprises and replace direct lending by the state with financing privately-held lending

3) To reduce and codify regulations, making them more transparent and specific and less subject to interpretation, selectivity, and change. Streamlining regulations must be accompanied by the institutionalisation of effective supervision over the banking system, shareholding companies, the accounting and auditing profession, and the Amman Financial Market.

4) To remove all obstacles to free competition, including the practice of giving support and incentives to certain enterprises and investors to the exclusion of others (regardless of the. apparent merits of such actions). It must be recognised that such practice will actually deter private investment in the sector where selective incentives are provided. The tourism industry in Aqaba is a good example of how misguided promotional schemes eventually retard aggregate invest-

A framework for privatisation

The most serious obstacle facing a privatisation programme in a country with a large public sector is the natural resistance of the civil service — people who stand to lose power, prestige, appointments on company boards, etc.

To circumvent such resistance, the programme must be engineered and managed by a group of professionals who suffer no conflict of interests. More importantly, this group must be able to clear decisions from the highest authority through direct channels. This group, which includes financial analysts and investment bankers, would map out specific strategies and time plans for the various privatisation targets and present the proposals directly to the Prime Minister for approval and dearance.

The ideal headquarters for such a group would be the offices of the Jordan Investment Corporation, a department which will assume a central role in the implementation of any privatisation programme. Two other groups of economists and investment bankers would be set up to research impediments to competition and to solicit potential investors.

An intelligent and articulate media drive should precede and accompany the programme in order to ensure public goodwill and acceptability and to generate investors' interest. The programme should be packaged not as mere privatisation measures but as comprehensive programme to liberalise the economy and support private initiative. A comprehensive strategy

meticulous plan for each deal. Privatisation should be carried out on sectoral basis and not on company basis.

For example, assuming that priority is given to the tourism sector, the privatisation effort would concentrate on this sector exclusively and would not shift emphasis until all state ownerships in the sector are liquidated and all impediments to free competition and private investment are removed.

This approach is essential to achieving the multiple objective of the programme. Obviously. priority should be given to the sectors that have the most pressing needs for competition and private capital. My own choice ould be the manufacturing sector, followed by business ser-

As for the Social Security Corporation (SSC), the state agency which manages the only pension scheme in the country, the issue is not whether it should invest in equity or not. Clearly, it should invest more of its money, if not all of it, in equity rather than in debt obligations or bank deposits.

What is required here is the removal of the SSC's investments from the category of government ownership either by privatising the SSC itself or by farming out the management of its investments to outside specialists. It is high time, anyway, that invest-ment banks owned up to their name and offered a real menu of investment services, including

fund management. An important related issue is the impediments to primary market activities which have constrained new share issuances since 1983. Arbitrary price setting by the Ministry of Trade and Industry has discouraged both the supply and demand for new share

Furthermore, the poor supervision over the contents of the share prospectus and the lack of legal deterrence against false or incomplete financial disclosure have scared investors away from primary issues, rendering the Amman Financial Market unable to fulfill its central purpose — the facilitation and expansion of equity financing.

Short-sighted political considerations and vested interests must not be allowed to obstruct or hijack the prospects of sustainable growth any longer. Nor should we allow privatisation to continue to elude us by the unrealistic talk of privatising huge public utilities and mammoth fai

Such talk has served only as a smoke screen for inaction. Smaller and more urgent targets must be defined and prepared for immediate actualisation. Otherwise, the battle of privatisation may be lost even before the first shor is

out a timetable for implementa- economist who regularly write

By Rami G. Khouri

The View from Fourth Circle

Wife-beating blacks, drunken Indians, and one billion bombers...?

world could watch U.S. television coverage of the events surrounding last week's arrest of Mohammad Salameh, who was detained and is being charged with playing a role in the bombing of the World Trade Centre in New York city. What we saw was negative, incomplete, whimsical, often racist, very stereotypical, and highly unprofessional U.S. television coverage during the first few days after Salameh's arrest.

The troubling thing about the coverage was its excessive visual and verbal focus on the militarism and violence of a brand of politicised Islamic fundamentalism that defines a very small minority of Arabs. I have no problem with straight news coverage of the suspect, the rented van, mentioning the mosque where Salameh worshipped, and even reviewing instances of Islamic violence in Egypt, the U.S.A. or other countries — if this is balanced by important parallel issues such as the reasons for his religious motivation, the social, political and economic contexts that promote politicised Islam in the Arab World, or how the Islamic religion responds to some people's need for a fresh form of political expression and social protection. But this is not what American television gave us last week.

For several days after the arrest, when viewer interest was at its height, U.S. television ran repeated stories that associated Islam, Arabism, violence and terrorism as a single, unified phenomenon. The several reports that I saw, and that continue to appear this week, focused on the preachings of Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman in New Jersey, his links to Islamic fundamentalists in Egypt, and their alleged collective association with the assassinations of Anwar Sadat and Meir Kahane and the more recent violence against foreign tourists and domestic personalities in Egypt. These may be accurate facts; but used in isolation of the broader reality of our world they become selective, inaccurate, incomplete, and demeaning components of a brand of media racism that demeans the intelligence of Americans as much as it savages the dignity and humanity of Arabs and Muslims.

Regardless of whether these people were guilty or innocent,

what the American TV viewer got last week was a barrage of reports associating violence, killing, assassination and terrorism with Islam and Arabism; almost all the images chosen to be shown to viewers alongside these verbal themes were carefully chosen images of violence, extremism, fanaticism, and death. The combination was deadly to any thought of accurate and rational communication that the media may have desired to play or ought

The problem with such news reporting is that by taking only one aspect of Arab/Islamic culture — militaristic and violent terrorism — it builds an image in the viewer's mind of this being the defining characteristic of Arab/Islamic culture in general. The viewer is rarely told that these people represent a very small fringe of Arabs/Muslims; and there is virtually no attempt to explain why Islamic fundamentalism has such a wide following in this region. Other aspects that define the world of Arabism and Islam — charity, hospitality, education, piety, tolerance, ethnic

and religious pluralism — are ignored. I am sure this does not reflect a conscious effort to defame and stereotype Arabs by the American media. It is, rather, an unconscious consequence of four basic problems we live with

1. The nature of U.S. television news is a big problem. The intensely competitive news business demands that reporters package their stories as a combination of fact and drama that can catch the viewer's attention and keep the viewer tuned to that station, where the commercial imperative to attract viewers and dog food advertisers reigns supreme over all other considerations. Given the short time of most reports (1-2 minutes) and the need to dramatise and entertain, most reporters end up having to rely on images, words and symbols that tell an entertaining and exciting story, thereby reducing complex realities into stereotypes and cliches. In this case, the result has been a series of rapid-fire images of Arab Muslims shown alternately praying and engaged

"The litmus test of fairness and accuracy (in the U.S. media's coverage of the Mohammad Salemeh case) is always a simple one. Would the U.S. media have used the same religious and racial imagery had the suspect been Jewish or black? Probably not, certainly not... The double standards are clear here."

2. A second problem is the powerful legacy of distorted Western, especially American, perceptions of Islam and Arabism. The Orient and the Occident have engaged in confrontations, and mutual misperceptions and fears for several thousand years, so that mutual distortions of the other's culture are the norm. It is peculiar that Arabs and Americans tend to share the same strange stereotypes of each other, in both cases focusing on the images of parallel violence and opulence. The average Arab's image of the United States is probably that of a land of wealth and opportunity, or a decadent and violent urban landscape where people hesitate to walk out of their homes for fear of being robbed or raped. Similarly, the two predominant views of Arab/Islamic culture in the United States are probably related to oil wealth and terrorism. Such gross inaccuracies on the part of both parties

reflect a tradition of stereotyping that goes back many centuries. 3. The immediate new element that may be fuelling anti-Arab and anti-Islamic sentiment in the United States is the apparent need for Americans to define a new external enemy to replace communism. Arabs and Muslims appear to be a prime candidate for this (Japan and China were two other leading contenders, but seem to have dropped out of the race for the world's new bad guy). The Arab/Islamic world provides a very plausible new enemy for the United States and those of its colleagues in the

West who share its tendency towards racist hysteria in foreign policy, for several reasons: there is already a good foundation of negative Western perceptions of Arabs/Muslims based on badexperiences of hijackings, terrorism, hostage-taking and other recent events; some in the U.S. may have an interest in portraying this region as violent and threatening, in order to provide credible cover for direct U.S. protection and exploitation of Arab oil supplies and income; and, the tradition of confrontation and rage over U.S. policy towards the Palestine issue and other matters' provides fertile ground for those who seek to promote greater tension between Arabs and Americans.

4. The last point is that in the last half a century a small minority of people in the United States have actively promoted a negative image of Arabs and Muslims, due to their pro-Israeli convictions or for the purpose of electoral advantage in the United States.

This anti-Arab and anti-Muslim attitude is not sufficiently countered by intelligent Arab activism or diplomacy, leaving a residue of predominantly negative images of Arabs and Muslims into which incidents such as the arrest of Mohammad Salameh fit

The litmus test of fairness and accuracy in this case is always a simple one. Would the U.S. media have used the same religious simple one. Would the U.S. media have used the same rengious and racial imagery had the suspect been Jewish or Black? Probably not. Certainly not. The double standards are clear here, just as they are in U.S. policy in implementing U.N. resolutions. In other cases of violence, whether in the U.S.A. or around the world, the media usually makes a credible attempt to look beyond the surface violence in order to understand its root causes. This happened in Los Angeles, Brixton, Soweto, and many other cases. In instances of violence by Arabs/Muslims, however, this remains rare, and it was virtually nonexistent last week in all the television reports that I saw.

Would U.S. television repeatedly highlight the high rate of alcoholism and domestic violence among blacks and native alcoholism and domestic violence among blacks and native Americans, say, without adequately dealing with their underlying causes? Certainly not. Why, then, does the U.S. media allow without addressing its underlying causes and putting it in its proper, full context? Why is such violence not properly defined within the broader world of one billion Muslims, and 230 million

The American commercial media, on the whole, has once again succumbed to its old penchant for racist, entertaining drama, at the expense of honest, cross-cultural communication. We had, and still have, an opportunity here for some very constructive transfer of knowledge between Americans and Arabs, between the Occident and Orient, and between the realms of Islam and Christianity. Let us hope that thoughtful people in the U.S.A. and in the Arab World alike will recognise their shortcomings in projecting inaccurate and distorted images of one another, and make an attempt to use the media for more constructive communication between two cultures that should be friends and partners, because they share so many values and aspirations.

© 1993 Rami G. Khouri

Buy a Swiss

bunker — but

beware

By Kevin Liffey

Reuter

KREUZLINGEN, Switzer-

land — To a casual stroller,

Triboltingen High Street pre-

sents a picturesque Swiss vil-

lage idyll of half-timbered

houses and apple trees, not

far from the German border.

But walk closer under the

quaint attic windows, open

one of the garage doors

marked "no posters" - and

you find yourself staring

down the aperture of a.

Look across the street and

another door suddenly looks

suspicious. Sure enough, the

timbering and windows are

just so much camouflage con-

cealing concrete bunkers within. "Manhole covers" on

the road conceal mountings

for anti-tank spikes.

machine-gun emplacement.

Published Every Thursday

North, South universities link up

By Farida Burtis By Farida Burtis
NEW YORK — "Our first
REDALK satellite facility linking institutions of higher '-education will start operating from Mexico next year," said Qustavo Lopez Ospina, director of the U.N. Liaison Office of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Gultural Organisation (UN--ESCO). This is an important concept for UNESCO because it involves networking universities in the developing world with institutions in the U.S., Canada and other developed countries." As a result, students in developing countries will be

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REDALK stands for Educational Network for Latin America and the Caribbean. Mr. Lopez, a Colombian. said \$25 million is being pro-: vided for the project by the European Community. After assessing its success in the Americas, UNESCO expects to duplicate REDALK

able to access information

-from universities in de-

· Veloped countries.

to involve educational institutions in Asia and Africa.

The project is part of UN-ESCO's new priority goal to strengthen inter-university cooperation, with emphasis on higher education in the developing countries. Another programme called UNITWIN (for "twinning of universities) has evolved from this goal. It is designed to facilitate "networking and other linking arrangements on the basis of North-South, South-South, and East-West cooperation," Mr. Lopez said. As a result of the UN-ITWIN project, for example, universities in the occupied Arab territories will benefit from increased cooperation with European universities, Mr. Lopez added. The project involves 18 universities. "Cooperation will focus on subjects such as the environment, agriculture, applied sciences, management and business administration, modern European languages

and social sciences.' Four universities in south-

Among UNESCO's major achievements was the 1960s campaign to

save Egyptian temples in the Nubia region when the Aswan Dam

abiding parents have paid thousands of dollars to

teachers and brokers to per-

suade the cream of the

academic crop to sit college

entrance examinations for

students \$13,000 to sit an

entrance examination for

another, a police spokesman

Seoul's elite Yonsei Universi-

ty, was promised more after

the exam by his teacher who

had secured over \$100,000

from the mother of the real

"Every time we question

or arrest a person, we find

The bright student, from

ern Africa and the Utrecht University of the Netherlands have also established a network of cooperation on the basis of UNITWIN, Participating universities are the University of Zimbabwe, the Eduardo Mondlane University in Mozambique, the University of Western Cape in South Africa and the University of Namibia.

"There is a big difference between the universities of the North and South, and networking will help put an end to the "brain drain" phe-nomenon," explained Mr. Lopez who, before coming to New York, had served as head of UNESCO's Regional Centre for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean and was in charge of modernising higher educa-

. Mr. Lopez says UNESCO expects further cooperation from several U.S. universities involved in UNITWIN, and he plans to visit various American educational institutions to promote dia-

logue. Already, "one programme links Harvard University with the University of Sao Paulo in Brazil. Another links New York University with a Senegal university. he noted. Another component of

UNITWIN involves sending to the developing world recognised experts able to teach at university level. Called UNESCO Chairs, this project enables UNESCO "to cooperate with interested institutions, associations, organisations and potential donors," said Mr. Lopez. UNESCO may provide initial financing for the least developed countries. Through this programme, internationally recognised experts in education hold positions in universities in developing countries, where they work with postgraduate students and researchers.

Mr. Lopez believes the possibility of the U.S. rejoining UNESCO is better than ever under President Bill Clinton, who has said programmes in education and science are very important. He adds that UNESCO has been engaged in ongoing negotia-tions with the U.S. about re-entry to the organisation and expects negotiations to pick up momentum after Mr. Clinton has had a chance to review the matter. Hearings on the subject are expected in Washington in the spring.

The U.S. is cooperating on several programmes, including those on science and the biosphere and, in particular, has played a role in commemorating the 20th anniversary of the World Heritage List. Established in 1972, the list has grown to include 358 sites in 83 countries, including the shrines of ancient Egypt; the archaeological ruins of Moenjodaro, Pakistan; the amphitheatre of El Jem, Tunisia; the Sagarmantha National Park, Nepal; and the Great Mosque, Cordoba

Another important project was the December 1992 creation of the World Commission on Culture and Develop-

from parents of would-be stu-

simply think it's disgraceful.

Where is this society heading?" Said H.S. Kim a lectur-

after his son confessed he had

sat entrance examinations for

my friends because I didn't

have enough pocket money," the son, Noh Hyok-Chae, 20.

"I first thought I was going to tutor students. Later I was

too deep into it and couldn't

get out," Noh tearfully con-

fessed on national television.

"I could not hang out with

several others.

"As a professor myself. I



Gustavo Lopez Ospina, director of the U.N. liaison office of UNESCO, says his agency is using satellite transmissions to promote education in the developing world

lar, former secretary-general of the U.N., has been appointed president of the new commission, which has five honorary members and 12 members. Its objective is to strengthen "links between culture and development and to prepare a report on the issue," Mr. Lopez said. "This has never been the subject of

a global study." The commission will also make recommendations on how development policy can be explained. "After the failure of numerous strategies of development, UNESCO has indicated that there is the need for another kind of development --- human, sustainable and interdependent," Mr. Lopez said. The commission's first meeting is expected to take place in the first quarter of 1993, and the report, with concrete proposals, will be released in 1995.

ancient Silk Roads — used by Marco Polo to travel from Mongolia to Rome. "A group has just returned from Mongolia, after retracing the Steppe Route in Central Asia," Mr. Lopez said. The Silk Roads project became operational in 1990 with the peditions to the Desert Route in China and to the Maritime Mr. Lopez says this "concept of intellectual cooperation, supported by member counfrom a wide range of fields to travel ancient routes, visit museums and "meet and compare knowledge." UNnational seminars and about 200 academic meetings for

next few months to the departure of a series of ex-Route from Venice to Osaka. tries, brings together scholars ESCO has organised 23 interthe Silk Roads project -

wards to guard against the pedition, which will include threat of invasion from Nazi journalists, will travel in the Germany. The invasion never came, but the gun emplacements and tank traps remained, regularly used for exercises by Switzerland's 600,000 strong part-time army, but gradually growing obsolete. Now 4,000 bunkers are up for sale. If you can find them. "There are several reasons for selling," says Colonel Bruno Bommeli, entrusted with the job by the Federal Office of Army Construction and Fortresses. "The army is moving to a more dynamic, less static defence concept," he says. Even three-metre (10-foot) thick concrete walls are no match for modern ordance.

> And as in other Western countries, the army is being trimmed and costs cut. At first glance, some of the installations look like a good chance to acquire some Swiss property at a knock-down

рпсе. One bijou bunker on Lake Constance near Kreuzlingen,

intended to defend against beach landings, houses six.

Swans cruise around its base and waddle onto the adjacent beach, and there is a view across the lake to Germany...or there would be if there were windows.

The concrete walls and rooms offer little comfort or

"You would need a certain love of small spaces," admits

Col. Bommeli, although he points out that some of the mothballed bunkers are practically self-contained towns and sleep 500.

Still, no one should think Switzerland is simply selling its once prized defences off the supermarket shelf. Money is not likely to be a

problem. Col. Bommeli will even give a bunker away in return for a promise to demolish it — admittedly not a cheap process.

The first job for a buyer is to find the object of his or her desire. Not only are many well hidden, but for strategic reasons, there are no published lists and no advertise-

And then, the army is choosy about who it will sell to, because it does not want its reputation tarnished. "The buyer must demolish

All this is part of a network of 20,000 defence installaor agree to maintain the tions thrown up all over bunker," Col. Bommeli says. Switzerland from 1936 on-"We can't have installations being allowed to decay, because they will always be associated with the army."

The big snag here is planning permission, a bureaucratic nicety that the army never had to bother with.

Most bunkers would never be redesignated as dwellings without the expensive installation of plumbing, sew-age disposal, ventilation. electricity...and windows.

There would also be the problem of ensuring access. as many are buried in woodland or stuck on mountains where they can be supplied only by helicopter or cable winch.

If those difficulties could be overcome, anyone wanting to demolish a bunker such as the one on Lake Constance to build a house would probably find the area was a nature protection zone,

where building is forbidden. There are alternatives, such as using the bunkers as cellars for keeping wine or growing mushrooms, but Col. Bommeli admits these

ideas are a little far-fetched. This may be the reason that only 50 of the installations have been sold off in five years, and that the army is resigned to demolishing most of them itself over the

next 20. For the would-be bunker

owner, there is just a hint of

spent decades maintaining the bunkers conceive a strong emotional attachment to them, it says.

er in politicial science at Noh received about \$6,300 questioned 153 people since their less able peers. encouragement in the official steel doors would certainly Sogang University in Seoul. up front to tutor a high school the examination fraud came In one case a teacher at a keep intruders out and loud documentation. The day of the college A senior state prosecutor boy for a month. Further language institute offered to light late last month. More music in. But the two small Some citizens who have has tendered his resignation payments followed after he one of his brightest former than 58 people have so far

stopped his tutoring activi-

Noh is one of several stu-

dents who say they were

lured into the scam after

answering an advertisment

inviting college students to

tutor high school students.

The head of the tutorial college pushed Noh to substi-

tute in the examination room by playing on his sense of obligation and by threatening to tell his parents about the payments.

"I was shocked at first. But this is because of the pressures of society," the mother of two college students said "I can't really blame the parents. Our kids' futures are

of the scandal.

at stake," she said. A degree from a good university is so important that it can affect marriage pros-

state-exam is an annual day of ritual agony. Families and friends stand vigil outside the

examination room. Government offices, banks and large companies open up an hour late to clear the normally congested roads giving candidates a clear run to the campuses.

Hundreds of police motorcyclists are deployed around Seoul to rush tardy students to their examination.

Hillary's dress sends Sarah Phillips into spotlight

Exam pressure drives students to cheat

dents.

; By Judith Schoolman Reuter

By Lim Yun-Suk

Reuter

SEOUL - When it comes to

the chance of a university

education for their children,

parents the world over make

But in South Korea, the

pressure to secure a college

place has grown so intense

that scores of families have

given in to temptation and

Every day police are re-

vealing the names of the

latest suspects, most of them

respectable parents, teachers

and bright young students,

involved in a series of uni-

versity entrance examination

frauds now unfolding nation-

It seems normally law-

ηρω face ruin.

NEW YORK - Who says the New York fashion world is nothing more than a hemline that's slightly off the mark?

: Not Sarah Phillips, the latest darling of the fashion press, who burst onto the scene after designing Hillary Rodham Clinton's inaugura-

tion ballgown. To Ms. Phillips, 37, who has been creating couture fashions under her own name for two years but has been little known outside the fashion press. New York is where the industry is, and where it probably always will be. Despite some American designers who manufacture their clothes in the Far East or who look to copy what is being shown in Paris and Milan, Phillips's designs are

strictly American.

exam candidate.

She acknowledges the high cost of doing business in Manhattan, where she and her husband, sculptor Tom Hatch, live and work. Transportation, wages and taxes all can take a bite out of a fledgling company's budget. But her downtown home is her workplace and her fashions are sewn about 20 blocks uptown.

She said, "as long as you can maintain quality here" she'll stay in Manhattan.

Life in the limelight has been fairly out of character for the seemingly reserved Phillips. The fact that Mrs Clinton's dress, her creation, might one day hang in the Smithsonian Institution's first ladies exhibit in Washington, has not yet sunk in.

She does take herself seriously, despite her current

fashion cinderella status, and said that because she has a is in the couture business for the long haul.

more people are involved.

This case is getting big. It's

shocking and amazing what

parents would do," a police

South Korean police have

Police are combing

through the affairs of one

seat of learning in particular, Kwangwoon University in

northeast Seoul, suspected of

having admitted more than

60 students by illicit means.

paying students to sit-in for

another student, changing ex-

am marks on computers or

simply soliciting donations

These vary from simply

spokesman said.

been arrested.

"I don't consider myself a flash in the pan," she said. To ensure that her fashions play on the fashion classics, she does not look to kids on the street for fashion inspiration. Her idols are Balenciaga, Goeffrey Beene, James Galanos (Nancy Reagan's favourite) and Karl Lager-

She also looks to art and classical music. especially Mahler, to inspire her de-

According to Women's Wear Daily, Ms. Phillips' creations are "languid" and "classic...evening clothes that play tailored shapes against feminine fabrics.

Her styles are mostly in neutral colours such as navy. heather, black and ivory. She

relatively limited line she does not have the capability of dying large numbers of

Mrs. Clinton's dress was a bit of a departure from her usual more classic styles, with a lace sheath and dramatic overskirt in blue violet. She designed an iridescent violet and gold kimono to go over it. (For fashion trivia buffs. Mrs. Clinton's hose were sheer lavender).

Despite a brutal environment for start-up business in general, Ms. Phillips has grand plans for her fashions because, she said, these are not run-of-the-mill, massproduced items. Rather, they are "more intellectual, classic but progressive, cerebral." This means, you'll still want to wear them a year from

Ms. Phillips is no neophyte in the fashion world. She attended New York's Parsons School of Design, and worked for Yves Saint Laurent, Ralph Lauren and Christian Dior. Her company, Sarah Phillips New York, is two years old and sells her dresses and suits, which retail from

\$1,400 to \$4,000, to a select

few stores.

One is Barbara Jean Ltd of Little Rock, Arkansas, thus the Hillary connection. In fact. Mrs. Clinton had selected a champagne silk suit to wear to the Democratic National Convention last summer. Later, when Hillary's husband won the election, Ms. Phillips sent her a sketch of a dress which became Mrs. Clinton's inauguration gown.

Ms. Phillips herself cuts a dramatic swath, with a severe Louise Brooks-style haircut and black pants outfit with cut-out sleeves. Mr. Hatch, her husband

and adviser, often finishes her sentences and edits her comments, especially about subjects he thinks should be "off the record". While new to the fame

game, Ms. Phillips and Mr. Hatch are seemingly uncomfortable with all the fuss following "Hillary's dress." But. as Mr. Hatch said, "If you are an established name, everything falls into place.' In 1991-92, her first year in

business, Ms. Phillips had gross sales of about \$500,000 and a line of about 30 designs. She said that a line of between 60 and 100 designs per season "would be nice" with the possibility of moving into licensing or perfume, an appealing pipe dream.

Allala Laouiti

TREAGRADHAINN ANN AN TAGASACH A

The death has been announced in Tunis of Allala Laouiti, the long-time companion and intimate friend of President Habib Bourguiba. Mr. Allala came from the same hometown and social background as Mr. Bourguiba, and joined the group of young activists who in 1934 revitalised the Destour Party and created what came to be known as the Neo-Destour. The radical change in the method of political and civil opposition to successive French governments' interpretations of France's role in the protectorate over Tunisia established in the late 19th century inevitably led to repression of the new movement and its leaders. Mr. Laouiti shared with Mr. Bourguiba the frequent experience of prison, banishment to remote areas of Tunisia, and exile.

When Mr. Bourguiba finally returned to Tunisia in 1956, and became first prime minister, and then president of the new Tunisian Republic, Mr. Laouiti occupied the position of private secretary and confidant of his friend. In his modest office in the presidential building in the Kasbah, he received daily the visits of hundreds of men and women coming to explain their problems and ask for assistance, which was rarely denied. Mr. Laouiti acted as ombudsman, keeper of the president's purse, and secretary. His invariable discretion, willingness to listen, and readiness to help were appreciated by all who came in contact with him.

When Mr. Bourguiba ceased to be president, Mr. Laouiti continued to preside over the activities of the foundation created by Mr. Bourguiba's first wife, Sit Mufida, for the benefit of the blind and the handicapped, and thus completed a lifetime of service to his country which will not be forgotten by his many friends.

Cecil Hourani

Ν,

By Jean-Claude Elias

Some words have built-in magic. When applied to commercial products, such words do wonders. Actually double wonders. They delight both the person buying the product, who usually feels he or she has acquired an extraordinary item and the sales person, obviously happy, having made an easy and profitable operation.

Just add the term "turbo" to a car's name and watch the

effect on the potential clients. The words "plus" or "pro" are devastating when used next to a computer programme or software's name. Quattro Pro, Fox Pro and dBASE Plus are programmes, excellent in other respects, that have certainly benefited from their names' extension to gain the highest levels of popularity and become best sellers.

Laser technology, originally used in sophisticated military applications and then in surgical operations, found its way to the personal computer — PC — user just a few years ago. The name in itself contains a good dose of appeal. whether the product is a laser printer or a laser disc. Although the technology has become widespread, affordable and has entered the mass consumer market, the name hasn't lost much of its evocative power. To be "in" one has to own some laser equipment.

The standard computer laser disc. often called a CD-ROM, for Compact Disc — Read Only Memory, a device which allows the reading, though not the writing or erasure of pre-recorded data discs, is becoming more and more popular, just like its twin brother, the music CD. It is amazing how many people would say that they have a laser



disc rather than a CD or CD-ROM. Among the main advantages of the CD-ROM is its very high capacity, approximately 700 million characters on each disc, and its reliability which is far superior to the regular magnetic hard disk, of the so-called "Winchester" type.

Laser printers are not only fast, silent and technically

superior to the poor man's matrix printer, they are above all "laser" beauties. Actually the prices of these printers have gone down dramatically in the past year and they are now hardly more expensive than high end matrix printers. An American manufacturer is proposing a Personal Laser Printer model for as little as \$800. When even the price becomes attractive how can one resist the glitter of the laser

After all, when attractive names and gimmickry are used to sell us anything from washing powder to cars and TV sets, why not surrender to the flashy laser computer equipment, especially as it does present undeniable advan-

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

TRINING PERBEKATU DAN ARTIKAN KAN BANKAN BURATUR PERBEKATURAN PERBEKATURAN BANKAN BANKAN BERKATURAN BERKAN BERKAN

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

Lir-rabu'

Lil-kuhha

Lil-is'hall

li-soo el-hadm

Lil gathayan

Lil-humma

Astannaha?

Mutah'hir

Hadi hala tari'a.

Ayez shareet lasik.

Dawa dud al-humooda

Lil imsak

lil-arak/li-adam el-noum

Lazem roshitta lihada el-dawa?

BONERS

BANKRUPT: One who has divorced himself from debt in the hope of an early remarriage.

BUTCHER: A swindler on a small scale. COMPOSER: A bad pianist with a good memory.

DIPLOMAT: A rabbit in silk hat. ENGINEER: A man who can take a theory and put wheels

HUSBAND: A man who has chased a woman until she has caught him.

* * * * *

TANTALIZING FACTS

- ★ APPLE CIDER VINEGAR is an excellent antiseptic. ★ THERE ARE about five thousand languages in the
- ★ THE COST of manufacturing the first atomic bomb was
- ★ GRAPE JUICE will quench thirst promptly, even when taken in small amounts.
- SOCRATES, the Greek philosopher, left no writings of his own. His philosophy is known primarily through the writings of his pupil, Plato.

* * * * *

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

At the pharmacy

- Where is the nearest pharmacy? Feyn akrab saydaliya? - All-night pharmacy. Saydaliya lay-liya.
- At what time does it open/close? Imta tiftah/t'sakkir? — I need something for ... Ana ayez haja li ...
- ☆ A cold
- # Asthma
- ☆ A cough **☆** Diarrhea
- ★ Indigestion **☆** Insomnia
- **☆** Nausea
- ★ Constipution **☆** Fever
- Do I need a prescription for this medicine?
- It is an emergency case?
- Can I wait for it? — I'd like adhesive tape.
- ☆ Antacid ☆ Antiseptic
- **JOKES**
- A little girl was going to a party and her mother told her to be a good girl and to remember, when she was leaving, to thank her hostess.
- When she arrived home the mother asked her if she had thanked her hostess, and the little girl replied; "No, the girl in front of me did and the lady said, "Don't mention it" — so I didn't!"

* * * * *

A woman said to an author at a literary gathering: "My sides ache over your latest book." The author was delighted. "Oh. really." he said." so you found it very

amusing?"
"No," she replied. "The fact is I took it to bed and fell asleep on top of it!"

* * * * *

★ He: "They tell me Colonel Lively is a sexagenarian." ★ She: "The old fool; and at his age, too!"

* * * * *

An artist was staring at his blank canvas as if looking for an idea. "I want to paint a still life," he informed his friend, "but I'd like to do something different this time. I'm tired of fruit, buildings and landscapes."

"May I suggest," offered his friend," that you paint a Scot reaching for a restaurant check?"

☆ Critic: "It's an elegant statue, all right, but isn't that an old position for a general to assume?

Sculpter: "Perhaps it is. You see, I was halfway finished when the committee decided tht it couldn't afford a horse

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

- 1. How old is a quinquagenerian?
- 2. In a pantomime, Button is your good friend. Who are
- 3. Who wrote under the pseudonym Boz?
- 4. Is pedology:
- a) the study of the soil?
- b) the study of feet? c) the study of children?
- 5. What is another name for pyrotechnics?

YOUR DREAMS INTERPRETED

MARRIAGE: For single people to dream they are married indicates that they are involved in an affair of diminishing returns and would do well to seek a new alliance.

DIVORCE: The significance of this dream depends upon the marital status of the dreamer. If married, it is a dream of contrary and you can rely on your mate; if single, it is a warning that your affections are probably misplaced.

BIRTH: You are sure to have good news soon after a dream of the birth of, or giving birth to, a child. If the birth involved animals, it signifies defeat for anyone working against your interests. Multiple births indicate an increase in material wealth. Of course if the dreamer happens to be pregnant, there is no significance.

DEATH: If you dreamt of being dead yourself, it indicates an approaching release from all your worries and/or a recovery from illness. If you spoke with someone who is dead, you will soon hear very good news. To dream of a death frequently signifies news of a birth. To be aware of a dead person you cannot identify portends an inheritance which may not be personal but could be indirectly

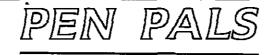
PUZZLES

- (A) J. Why is a crossword puzzle like a quarrel?
 - What letter is most useful to a deaf woman? Why is a bad cold like a great humiliation?
 - What time is it when the clock strikes thirteen? 5. What is black, white and red all over?
 - 6. What occurs once in a minute, twice a moment, but not once in a hundred years?
 - 7. What ship has two mates but no captain?

* * * * *

(B) Here is the FIRST HALF of the alphabet: EF HIKLM B C DG

Can you write down the SECOND HALF using the same rule for determining whether the letters go above or below



Dear Sirs,

I am a male of 50 years, interested in collecting stamps and other philatelic items from your country. I would also be pleased to get different information about your country. I think that a pen-pal from Central Europe could be also interesting for your subscribers.

Please publish my name and address to your subscribers.

Max Fink Box 42, A-8073 Feldkirchen Austria

Shaker's family in Ramadan

By E. Yaghi

Shaker is a typical Jordanian head of his family. In all, he has eight children but only two now remain at home. His wife's name is Iman. Every day at seven in the morning. Shaker's two sons depart for school. Before the start of Ramadan, they would both grab a quick bite to eat and dash out the door. Now, their mother wakes up at about 4 a.m., makes a hot cup of tea and puts the leftovers from the Iftar of the day before. The boys groggily gather round the table with sleep still in their eyes and obviously on their minds. They and their parents eat what they feel like and drink their tea until they hear the call of the Mu'azzen before the sun rises. Both boys fast all Ramadan, a religious tradition that they have been pursuing since they were in the first grade.

One evening as they sat eating Iftar, Shaker's youngest son asked: "Dad, is it true that during Ramadan the gates of paradise are opened?"

Yes," the father replied, nodding his head affirmative-"During the holy month of Ramadan, the gates of

paradise are opened and don't forget too as Prophet Mohammad said, 'there is a gate in paradise called Al Rayan and all those who observe fasts will enter through on the Day of Resurrection."

He looked at his son intently. His youngest seemed to be deep in thought. After a moment the youth said: "Then our fasting will be rewarded twice. Once when we eat during each day of Ramadan and in the end, after we die, when we are rewarded by God for observing the fast which is one of five obligatory pillars of Islam!"

Iman added as she passed the salad: "Don't forget that fasting itself teaches us many things, among them discipline and patience, although I don't always feel that when my

men are hungry, they are very patient."

The elder son said earnestly: "Well after all, Mom, you can't expect us to fast all day and then eat something mundane or boring. We should have some sort of bonus for

She laughed, scolding: "I'll agree as long as I don't have to spend 12 hours trying to satisfy your idea of what a bonus consists of! And at night not be faced with a mountain of dishes to wash as though I ran a restaurant and not a

"Come on," the younger coaxed, looking impatient. "Isn't that what mothers are for? By the way, when are you going to make the Gatayef?"
"Before we get up to pray," Shaker said as he looked

around at his family, "let me remind you all that Ramadan isn't just a month for eating and splurging. When you fast, remember how hungry you are and that at least, when the sun sets, you can eat and get full. But what about the poor? If you are hungry during the day, think how they are never

full at any time of the year. Be thankful to God for your many blessings and never forget the sufferings of others, such as the brave warriors of the Intifada, the persecuted Muslims in Bosnia, and the expellees who now spend Ramadan away from their homes and families not knowing what the future has in store for them.

"Remember too," he continued, "that Ramadan is a time of brotherly love and reaffirms the equality of mankind, for no matter what social status, wealth, or race, all break the fasting at the same time. Ramadan is a time of giving to the poor and though you forfeit food for many hours each day, you experience a spiritual joy, growth and mutrative that may be more dormant other months of the year. Another important thought is that fasting is a shield from committing sins as well as expiation for sins already

The younger son fiddled with his fork and then said pensively: "Dad, can you tell us a little more about Lailat

"Since that most wonderous night may soon be at hand. of course," the father replied, happy to share his knowledge. He sipped his tea before proceeding. "It is believed that Lailat Al Qadr falls on the 23rd, the 25th, or the 27th day of Ramadan. It transcends time, for through it, God dispells the darkness of ignorance by His revelation, the Holy Our'en. Holy Qur'an:

We have indeed revealed This (Message)
In the Night of Power: (Lailat Al Qadr).
And what will explain To thee what the Night Of Power is? The Night of Power Is better than A thousand months, ... Sura Al Qadr, Verses 1-3.

"Dad, I want to stay awake all night long on the 27th. I'm going to go to the mosque and remain there until al ishour!" the older exclaimed.

"By the way, don't forget to buy us some new clothes for . the eid! I think we should do our shopping soon!" the youngest sibling said.

"Yes," agreed the mother and added, "remember to give money to the poor too before Ramadan finishes, you know, the alms for Iftar, where each member of the family has to pay a certain amount to those in need so that God

Ramadan, a sacred period in all Muslim households. is a time of fasting, sacrifice, dedication, prayer, worship, a time of love and a period when the oneness of mankind is re-emphasised. Happy Ramadan dear readers. May God bless you during this holy month and throughout the year. Have a happy eid wherever you go, whoever you may be!

The beauty myth

By Natasha Bukhari

Nowadays, so many women in the world find their lives dominated by food. Why are women continuously struggling with and against food and their own desire and need

becoming women's prime subject in their social gatherings. We are becoming more and more obsessed with weight and body shape everyday; so much so, that a large number of women, especially young women, are falling into the trap of eating disorders. Women are developing a love-hate relationship with food and their bodies. They we become so preoccupied with the idea of "thin is good, thinner is better, and thinnest is the best." With this is mind, you find women struggling against their bodily needs for nourishment to achieve "the best". This struggle causes the love-hate relationship. We love food because it gives us life, but we hate it because it makes us fat, and what could be worse than being a fat woman? Throughout the years, women have been treated as objects, and it is always a woman's body and fashion that are at the centre of changes in magazines, films, etc...Images of femininity have changed from Marilyn Monroe to Twiggy. At any moment in history, the image of the beautiful or even acceptable female body is limited to a very few body types. Those women who conform to these projected images are acknowledged as the beauties of their time. The actual reality is such that if you look at women's bodies, no one body looks like another. There are as many body types as there are bodies. And yet there is always one type that is more acceptable at any given time, and if women don't comply with that type they must experience personal and public humiliation, pain, shame and embarrassment of being not just different but inferior.

This emphasis on external appearance forces the woman to look at herself through others' eyes, as well as to view her body as the main attribute of her personality. Obviously these ideal media images are very hard to attain, therefore, most women will never be satisfied with the way they look. They start loathing their bodies and to many women, their body becomes a burden they have to carry, a trap, an enemy. They punish themselves for not being able

to conform to the prevalent ideal body type. Hence the development of life threatening eating disorders anorexia nervosa, bulimia, and compulsive eatings, where women become out of touch with their bodies. This is expressed in an extreme way by anorexics and compulsive eaters. They are both distanced from their bodies and their body image is distorted to the point that they do not acknowled bodies as theirs. They disembody themselves by living in their heads and develop the feeling that their spirit is a prisoner in the cage of that body which has let them down by not conforming, and therefore deserves severe punishment. It becomes unworthy of their love and respect, or much so that some women starve themselves to death while others stuff themselves to the point of feeling sick. These extreme attitudes are manifestations of bodily abuse.

It is about time for women to realise that they have been taught to see themselves from the outside as objects until they become prey to the huge fashion and diet industries. which promise the woman, through her looks, a man, a family, success, friendship, love, and happiness. Many artificially thin women who have achieved the goal of ultimate beauty, would tell you that they paid too high a price, and the outcome, contrary to the promise, is a sick body as well as a sick mind.

Women owe it to themselves to refuse self-evaluation according to an image presented in the media. They should make peace with their bodies and assert themselves as unique, whole, and different individuals, rather than just commodities for others to observe, criticise and evaluate. The woman's body is her own and no one else has the right to tell her what her body should look like, for it is not public property available for industries to mould so that it'd conform to particular stereotypes. It is our duty as women to rebel against these destructive perceptions of billboard images of womanhood by proving that we can be comfortable with our bodies without feeling obliged to "conform" to projected ideals, which are aimed at women for no other reason but to keep them under the impression that if not guided, even their most basic instincts of survival can "get out of control", thus leading them to inferiority. Let's not submit to another fatal conspiracy aimed at underestimating our intelligence to the extent of depriving us from our right of self-respect.

The day I got my grades

By Nizar Yaghi

(To Tawjihi students everywhere)

Perhaps one of the most critical situations that we students face, besides trying to convince our teachers to treat us as human beings, is when we get our grades. But what is so critical about getting a grade one might ask?

Well, I think that the majority of the students have consumed all their strength and energy in order to reach those dreams which they had imagined since childhood, not to mention the psychological stress and pressure felt from the great expectations of friends and relatives.

When the day of receiving our grades finally did arrive, some of us thought that we wouldn't live long enough to get the results. When our grades were announced if anyone ever wished to be in hell, then this was a suitable time for this wish to come true. With red faces, teary eyes, trembling hands and rapidly beating hearts, all the poor students, or almost all of us, headed towards our homes wondering what the reaction of our parents would be. Those who remained solemnly sat down on some

benches as if nothing at all had happened, trying to figure out what the meaning of life was, with their hands supporting their smudge stained cheeks. A stranger in Jordan would have found it difficult to figure out such a phenomenon of mutual shock on the faces of so many students and perhaps this scene would have created in him a peculiar kind of terror, like the sight of the

ship, "Marie Celeste abandoned at sea with its galley fires peacefully burning, its tranquil decks bright in the sun-The remaining question in our minds is: Isn't this annual catastrophe ever going to stop?

The writer is a grade 12 student at Al Hussein College in

By Robert Shelton

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LONDON - Superstar actors have the ability to become the characters they portray, and we often remember them as the characters they have created. Robert Redford will certainly be remembered best as the elusive Great Gatsby (1974), as the Watergate reporter in All The President's Men (1976) or maybe the impudent bandit in Butch Cassidy And the Sundance Kid (1969), where he shared the spotlight with Paul Newman.

The newly released A River Runs Through It has Redford's fingerprints all over it — which is all the more

remarkable because he doesn't appear on screen but is the narrator and director. This nostalgic hymn to nature and family life is the third film he has directed. His first, Ordinary People, won him an

As Redford spoke of the film and his concerns for the environment and for quality independent film production, we see just how much of his personal philosophy and motivation were involved in bringing to fruition this bestselling memoir of a Montanabased Scottish Presbyterian minister's family. His own roots are from Scotland and Ireland which may explain why he was drawn to this

Obtaining the rights from author Norman McLean took five years, but the lure of a tale about America's vanishing west was strong. "Not so very long ago." Redford said in a recent interview, "we were a young country. Now those beginnings in the west are almost gone. I felt a certain sadness for what we've lost." Beyond that, Redford says, he was interested in the role nature played in shaping people's lives, "Nature in much of the world has been pushed further, and further out, squitdoesn't play the key role it used to.

It was not easy to raise \$12 million to produce the film. the star recalled. "The book was a very literary and lyrical piece. Film is not a literary medium, and lyricism from America does not go down very well. Mysticism and lyricism in film is treated with great deal of cynicism." Redford explained that he found a certain grace and dignity in the film's central metaphor of fly fishing. "Beyond that," he added, "the taciturn family that cannot really help its doomed younger son fascinated me with that very dark and complicated area of the unbreakable bond of families, particularly sibling love and rival-

Starting with a rebellious youth, Redford has successfully managed the paradox of prospering within the confines of Hollywood while firmly keeping his distance from the movie world. He has superimposed on his star status the image of a mythic. independent character almost an outlaw, at least by Hollywood standards. In his early years, he says, he was as interested in painting as he was in acting. "I was blonde. and actors who go anywhere in Hollywood are generally dark. Blonde male stars never seem to make it, and that kind of discrimination really

bothered me." Redford was brought up in California and spent time on Malibu Beach. My family was filled with many of the goals and patterns of the family in A River Runs Through It. Of course I was going to resent any stereotyping. Maybe it pushes you a little bit harder to break through the stereotype," he said. Once the golden boy of Hollywood, Redford has retained great clout as he eases at 55 — into middle age. Although one of Hollywood's



Although he does not appear in the movie A River Runs Through It, Robert Redford's influence is strongly felt

magic names, he escaped much of the film world's madness by living with his three children and wife, from whom he is amicably separated, on a ranch in Utah-There, he founded and is president of the influential Sundance Film Institute and Festival, designed as a showcase for new talents.

Redford doesn't look like one of the screen's most political activists, but his concern for social justice and for environmental protection have long goaded him. Last year, Bill Clinton, who was courting Redford's active support. visited him on the set of the comedy thriller Sneakers. Clinton won his passive backing. I'm happy he is president. We needed change, and after-12 years of bad handling of the environment and education, it's good to have someone who is concerned about these things in the White House." Redford commented.

In his early years. Redford says luck helped his career build momentum. "My period of greatest struggle was between 1959 — when I started in New York theatre

- and 1963, when I was in an off-Broadway play that was so successful that film offers began to come in." Between those years there was a lot of apprenticeship in live and filmed TV and theatre. "One film just seemed to lead to another. In the mid-sixties, I stopped acting because I wasn't sure I wanted to be an actor." In 1961, he formed Wildwood Enterprises which was to produce Downhill Racer, The Candidate and All The President's Men.

After the enormous success of Butch Cassidy came roles in Jeremiah Johnson. about a nature-loving, independent frontiersman, a romance. The Way We Were. and a comedy, The Sting, for which he got an Oscar Best Actor nomination. Of these triumphs, Redford said, "I just kept stepping along. There was no long spell when I was completely down. I was fortunate.

Many would say that independent film production is fortunate to have Redford's advocacy of quality, smallbudget work. In 1980, he founded the Sundance Institute. based at his Utah ranch. which has sprouted a festival. The recently concluded 1993 festival was particularly successful in drawing top-quality entries from many countries. especially in the documentary section. Presented outside the competition, the Australian documentary Black Harvest about a mixed-race coffee plantation owner was especially well received: With the scope of a classical tragedy it depicts the clash between tribalism and capitalism.

Redford sees the Sundance Festival as an incubator for young film makers to make necessary mistakes without causing financial disasters. This year the event attracted 200 reporters and countless agents and independent film executives. The fact that News Link.

Quentin Tarantino, of Reservoir Dogs fame, and Steven

ence from films in the 1980s was my choice of doing other things, like Sundance. I and I wanted to do political work on the environment. I underestimated how much work there is in fund-raising. Those two years became six.

his films, Redford leaves the in an industry often driven by expediency and greed. He done to the richness of the American west, about the drift in films toward superviolence and gadgetry while human values are discarded. A recent news article in a slick magazine portrayed him as a sort of outlaw-outsider who wants to keep Hollywood straight, but "there was too much myth-making there," he commented.

A River Runs Through It

Soderbergh's Sex. Lies And Videotape (1989) came out of the institute workshops is a clue to the impact of Sund-"A large part of my abs-

worked very hard as an actor in the 1970s...I felt uneasy about not having spent enough time with my family. I worried about life going so quickly that you wake up one day and your family is up and out without you ever having connected with them." Redford explained. "Directing my first film was very satisfying. Then, I thought, I was going to take two years off and put something back into my industry, with Sundance,

In person and in most of impression of a man of quiet integrity fighting for decency

worries about what has been

reveals just how much Redford thinks of his own family background and what he owes to old Scots-Irish family values - in contrast to the new California. And against all odds, his cherished. Ivrical. mystical film has already had a strong impact on pragmatic America - World

For Louis Malle, sex still has the power to shock

By Andrew Gumbel Reuter

PARIS — Thirty years after the sexual revolution, the relaxation of screen censorship and any number of kiss-andtell political scandals, it is a wonder that sex still has the power to shock.

But in the hands of Louis Malle, a film director with a record of provoking audiences and critics, the subject can still seem both shock and highly topical.

Malle's latest work, Damage, is a highly charged story of a British cabinet minister who becomes involved, almost despite himself, with his son's girlfriend and so leads himself and his family on an inevitable path to dis-

The film, starring Jeremy Irons and Juliette Binoche, was opened to rave reviews and full houses in France.

Its subject is uncomfortable — almost unfashionable — in an age of AIDS and "family values", when sex is supposed to be safe or not practised at all.

Unlike recent Hollywood blockbusters on the same theme, such as Fatal Attraction or Basic Instinct, there is no attempt to moralise about the insidious power of sexual passion.

Damage is a tragedy of human frailty in which the characters, drawn from the British and French bourgeoisie, find that their cherished notions of moral certainty simply do not exist.

"It's a description of a world without redemption, where people are on a strange path of self-destruc-tion," Malle said in an inter-

"My film could very well be a reaction to the fact that, because of AIDS in particular. sex has become dangerous and almost obsolete in our society...the planet is overpopulated anyway so it seems the less we have sex the better.

Several times during his distinguished career, the French director has explored unpalatable subjects and challenged conventional thinking on sex to electrifying effect.

Les Amants (The Lovers, 1958) anticipated the social changes of the 1960s by speaking openly about sexual pleasure, Le Souffle Au Coeur (Musmus Of the Heart, 1971) dealt with incest and Pretty Baby (1977), his first U.S. film, was a study of child prostitution in turn-ofthe-century New Orleans.

While Les Amants, made at the beginning of Malle's career, depicts sexual fulfilment as an escape from bourgeois hypocrisy, Damage shows it as an unequivocagent of destruction in much the same environment.

Malle's work, like the sexual revolution, has unex-

pectedly come full circle. "I think predictability isl the rule and I'm completelythe opposite...I'm interested! in aspects of the truth that go against preconceived ideas,

including mine," he said. "I try to come up with character behaviour that is irrational and surprising be-: cause I think it's truer to my observation of life...I like spectators to be disturbed."

The sense of impending doom in Damage is established from the opening scene, in which the politician Stephen Fleming (Irons) encounters his prospectives daughter-in-law Anna-(Binoche) at an embassy reception.

The two exchange glances. so long as to make the audience wince with discomfort.. When they later throw them-z selves at each other, they are incapable of communicatings except through disconcertingly violent lovemaking. They, neither speak nor kiss.

"I ended up with a film, where words are of little importance. It's all about looks and silences, Malle said. do it in the 1920s when film was silent, just with music and no words."

For Stephen the affair is a revelation after a long, apparently happy marriage and a successful career. Anna, on the other hand, has a scarred past and understands how to survive even as she sabotages her chances or happiness with Stephen's similarly untroubled son Martyn.

Seeing Stephen's family slowly implode is like watching a Greek tragedy — once events are set in motion, there is no escape and the tension is unrelenting.

"The tension doesn't come from the story or from the actors, the tension comen from me." Malle confided. "Even the simplest scene:f had the potential to turn into caricature. It was like walk! ing on a tightrope."

The stress took its toll and last September, just four weeks before his 60th birth day, Malle underwent hear. surgery in Los Angeles where he shares a home with his American actress wife Can

dice Bergen. Although apparently back on form and looking remarkably youthful, Maile has no immediate plans for another feature film. Instead he would like to return to documentary making, the medium which launched his career in the mid-1950s.

"As I get older I get more and more impatient with the process of filmmaking which, is so slow, so elaborate," he

"Everybody's making their own movie and they all take themselves very seriously-It's like a big machine you have to get going every day like a locomotive.

Belfast actor bids for Oscar as IRA gunman

By Paul Majendie Reuter

BELFAST — Belfast actor Stephen Rea, married to a convicted Irish Republican Army (IRA) bomber, has won a Hollywood Oscar nomination for playing an IRA gunman.

But the tousle-haired actor who won critical acclaim for his starring role in The Crying Game has stressed it is not a propaganda film.

In 1983, he married Dolours Price, who along with her sister served eight years of a life sentence for a car bombing outside the Old. Bailey courthouse in London. She was released on medical grounds.

Rea is currently starting on New York's Broadway play-

ing the role of an Irish hos-

tage in Beirut in Frank McGuinness' Someone Who'll Watch Over Me.

tions, The Crying Game is Ireland's most successful film since My Left Foot scoopedfive nominations and won

Rea, born in 1947, the son

When questioned about

Dolours Price on American television, he said: "That is my wife's past, she's not involved any more. She doesn't apologise for that and I am not going to apologise for

With six Oscar nominatwo awards in 1990.

of a Belfast bus driver, dismissed those who criticised him for portraying an IRA gunman who has moral doubts and turns his back on the guerrilla campaign against Britain in Northern Ireland.

He told the Irish Times: "Are we to believe that people involved in the Republican movement never say 'I have had enough'?"

"The Crying Game looks at a guy who has to live in close proximity to a (kidnapped) British soldier, the enemy, and sees that he is a regular guy.

"And he is not able to go on with what he has been trained to do. You would

"And people who want to just view the IRA as psychopushing propaganda than in truth. This film is not about propaganda."

Rea, who started out with Dublin's Abbey State Theatre and then moved

and presented by Mureed

This episode deals with the

effect of pollution on the

ozone layer, and the various

measuring equipment used

for analysing environmental

10:20 Feature Film — Night

Hadder is put in prison when

he is accused of stealing

\$50,000. Another inmate

tries to learn the whereabouts

of the hidden money, so he

kills Hadder. When the in-

mate gets out of jail, he goes

to Hadder's home town to

Sunday, March 14

An old friend sends his

8:30 Who's The Boss?

and atmospheric pollution.

10:00 News In English.

Of The Hunter

find the money...

9:30 Science Workshop

Britain's National Theatre, has for a decade been a fiercely committed actor taking to every corner

Together with playwright Brian Friel of Dancing At Lughnasa fame, he co-founded the Field Day Theatre

a deeply divided land.

bad acoustics the next. "People here are hungry

for questions. They are living

daughter to Tony so as to

teach her some manners and

This episode talks about the

rapid-scientific evolution

which took place in Japan

after World War II and its

competition with the major

markets in the field of mod-

10:00 News In English

10:20 Simon And Simon

A popular TV journalist

makes a deal with someone

to kill him, but not for real -

so as to get a story. The two

brothers come in when the

Monday, March 15

8:30 Step By Step

9:10 Marlin Bay

10:00 News In English

killing deal becomes real.

good behaviour.

9:10 Equinox

ern technology.

in an unresolved political situation. So they are interested in anything you do that might cast light," he said. Rea, whose first starring

film role was in Neil Jordan's Angel in 1982, decided to devote more time to films in the 1990s. But he thought long and

hard before accepting the role from Jordan in The Crying Game that has now propelled him on to the international film scene. He confessed to one Lon-

don newspaper: "I suppose it is inevitable that people will make assumptions because of my marriage even if I wish they would not. Equally. those assumptions are likely to be wrong.

born in the north of Ireland and not be political. The situation there is a pollution of your thinking. "There is no future in tribalism, the pressure people

involved in politics at all. At

the same time you cannot be

volved in the troubles and a lot more young people will become involved which is regrettable." He is philosophical about his chances of carrying off a coveted Academy Award,

live under is appalling, a lot

of people have become in-

even if one of his own sons is appropriately called Oscar. "It's going to be a mad,

crazy evening and I shall enioy it because I don't expect to win," he said. "It would be harder if I was Al Pacino and really wanted and expected to win."

8:30 The Powers That Be

new episodes mainly revolving around the blunders of the senator's family.

9:10 Dirtwater Dynasty

and Nancy finds Guy her husband who has deserted

10:00 News In English

Jack Klimenti investigates drug smuggling from Italy to

that some companies insured at Lloyds are behind the smuggling operation.

Wednesday, March 17

8:30 Saved By The Bell The students in Bayside

undergo an exam to enter college. But the big surprise comes when Zak and Jessie learn their grade average.

9:00 Local Programme — "One Step Ahead"

This programme sheds light on pioneering-business women in Jordan, revolving around two women, one who owns a clothes factory and another who runs a food factory. It is prepared and presented by Nisreen Al Tal.

9:30 After Us The Deluge

Man with his carelessness and indulgence is destroying the



Paola Dionisotti as Lady Pat in Forever Green on Thursday at 9:10

green forests of the world. If the face of the earth. this state of destruction continues, within 100 years all

10:00 News In English

Thursday, March 11

8:30 Comedy Series

-9:10 Forever Green

Jack and his neighbours find out that the river which irrigates their land is polluted.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Fire In The Dark

A story about an old woman

who falls down in her own

home, thus, requiring perma-

nant care and attention.

Friday, March 12

8:30 Billy Mary finds out that her teenage son, David, is into the habit of smoking secretly. Billy's role is to try to convince David to stop.

9:10 E.N.G.

The news team at Channel 10 try to rescue a fifteen-yearold Indian girl who was kidnapped at the age of four and sold to white parents through an adoption agency.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Columbo

Columbo investigates in the drowning incident of Eric Wagner, the son and only heir of a sports team corporation owner.

Saturday, March 13

8:30 America's Funniest Home_Videos__. ...

A collection of hilarious video clips and situations from Australia, Japan, France and Spain. This episode also includes the \$100,000 grand prize.

9:00 Perspective

A local talk show, prepared

want to have a pretty rough view of Catholics in the north to say that couldn't happen. paths are more interested in of the island of Ireland.

Company which showed how theatre can rebuild bridges in Throughout the 1980s, it went on tour, playing to packed houses across British-

ruled Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic with a series of thought-provoking

lenge of playing in an opulent opera house one night and a ramshackle village hall with

Rea revelled in the chal-

"I am not involved in politics at all. My wife is not

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW 10:20 Jordan Weekly America, and it is believed

> Megan leads a demonstration in Sidney against the Viet-

10:40 Vietnam

Tuesday, March 16

The comedy comes back with

Emma manages to regain her father's land from Richard

10:20 The Big Man

the forests will vanish from

10:20 Noble House

Experts report discovery of cause of multiple sclerosis

SAN DIEGO. California (R) - Scientists at Stanford University and in San Diego said L they had discovered the cause of multiple sclerosis (MS). a tl finding that may lead to therapies and a cure for the degenerative disease.

Multiple sclerosis is estic mated to afflict more than 250.000 people in the United t States alone. The disease C forces the body's immune t system to attack its central nervous system. It typically afflicts people between 20 and 40 years of age.

The scientific team, lead by Lawrence Steinman, professor of neurology at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California, published its findings in the latest edition of the prestigious medical journal.

Prof. Steinman, who is also chief scientist of immunology at Neurocrine Biosciences Inc., a San Diego pharmaceutical company, said in a statement that Neurocrine had begun de :

Prof. Steinman, who is also

chief scientist of immunology at Neurocrine Biosciences Inc., a San Diego pharmaceutical company, said in a statement that Neurocrine had begun developing a protein-based therapy to halt the disease.

The report in Nature said the Standford team made their discovery by analysing the T-Cell Receptor genes (TCR) from the brains of 16 multiple sclerosis patients.

They were able to identify a specific gene sequence that attacks the Myelin Basic Protein (MBP), a component of the myelin sheath that surrounds nerve fibers.

"We identified the TCR gene sequence that bound to the common MBP fragment found in MS patients." Prof. Steinman said. "By knowing this sequence we can now proceed to develop therapeutics to combat the disease."

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society, which helped fund Prof. Steinman's work, cautioned that the dis-

covery might not include all forms of multiple sclerosis. "Nonetheless, this report is

an important step in identifying the specific immune system cells involved in multiple sclerosis.

"If these results are confirmed, they may lead to specific therapies that block one type of immune system response to myelin in multiple sclerosis," the society said in a statement.

Neurocrine said in its statement it has an exclusive licence for the technology developed at Stanford. The company said it had already begun developing a proteinbased therapy that can cross the blood-brain barrier and interfere with the T-cells' ability to bind the MBP segment, thereby halting the dis-

Prof. Steinman described the protein therapy as "the most practical approach with the shortest development time before proceeding to clinical trials.

"We will also be pursuing

the development of small molecules that will either remove or inactivate these Tcells from the body and possibly begin work on a vaccine that will disable the specific T-cells that initiate the

"All three methods focus on blocking or disabling the very specific immune response that causes this disease, without suppressing the patient's entire immune system," he added.

Gary Lyons. president and **TREBURDO DE RELEXIO DE DOCUMENTO DE CONTREBERO DE CONTREBERO DE CONTREBERO DE CONTREBERO DE CONTREBERO DE CONTRE**

chief executive officer of Neurocrine. said scientists had known for 20 years that multiple sclerosis was an autoimmune disease, but until now had not been able to identify which cells caused the immune reponse.

Neurocrine was organised in January 1992 to develop novel pharmaceutical products to treat diseases resulting in ageing and stressrelated disregulation of the nervous, immune and endocrine systems.

Studies link vasectomies, prostate cancer, but experts urge caution

By Brenda C. Coleman The Associated Press

CHICAGO - Two new studies suggest vasectomies increase men's likelihood of developing prostate cancer. but outside experts question the findings and urge men with vasectomies not to get them reversed.

Men considering the procedure should weigh the bepefits and risks of various birth-control methods before choosing one, along with their partners, doctors said.

"Every form of contraception, as well as practicing no contraception, has its risks," said Dr. Edward Giovannucci. leader of the new studies and an epidemiologist at Harvard affiliated Brigham And Women's Hospital.

Findings appear in the latest issue of the Journal of the American Medical Asso-

Prior studies have been conflicting.

Four have linked vasectomies to an increased risk of prostate cancer, which killed 32,000 U.S. men in 1991, more than any other kind of cancer except lung, Dr. Giovannucci and his colleagues said.

But three other previous studies found no such link, said Dr. Stuart S. Howards, a urology professor at the University of Virginia Medical School in Charlottesville. He did not participate in the new

done epidemiological studies, which have to be considered seriously but do not prove that vasectomy causes prostate cancer," Dr. Howards

said Tuesday. "This is what's called a weak association epidemiologically (statistically across a population)." he said. of prostate cancer among "There is no good biologic men who had undergone rationale ...no known reason, why a vasectomy would increase your chances of get-

ting prostate cancer." About 450,000 vasectomies are done yearly in the United States. The procedure — in which the tiny tube carrying sperm from the testicles is cut — is one of the safest, most reliable and popular forms of

birth control. It is the method chosen by about 14 per cent of all contraceptive users. But doctors should tell

men who are considering vasectomies about the new data, Dr. Giovannucci and Dr. Howards agreed.

Each new study found about a 60 per cent elevated risk vasectomies. We found 113 cases of

prostate cancer among (a total of) about 22,000 men who had had a vasectomy," Dr. Giovannucci said by telephone. "This compares to rate of 70 cases per 22,000 among men who didn't have vasectomy.'

The elevated risk occurred

15 to 20 years after the procedure, said the researchers. who controlled statistically for differences in diet, smoking and other traits that could affect cancer rates.

The American Urological Association urged men who have undergone vasectomies not to get them reversed to try to prevent cancer, and Dr. Giovannucci agreed with that stance.

"It's not at all clear this is really a relationship," said Dr. Howards, who helped formulate the Urological Association's position. "And if it is, we don't know the reason - so we don't know that reversing vasectomy would be effective."

While a vasectomy takes

about 15 minutes to perform at a cost of a few hundred dollars - almost always covered by health insurance reversing it requires about two hours and costs \$4,000 to \$10,000. Dr. Howards said. Reversal is rarely covered by health insurance, he said.

Men who have had vasectomies more than 20 years ago should get tested yearly for prostate cancer, including a finger rectal exam and a prostate-screening blood test. the Urological Association

That differs little from previous guidelines of the association and the American Cancer Society, which say all men ages 50 to 70 should get the tests annually.

Red wine chemical tied to heart benefit

LONDON (AP) — It may be the tint that makes red wine good for the heart.

A new study on colour chemicals called Phenols backs earlier research that suggested red wine reduces the risk of heart disease, sci-

The red wine debate was parked by a study attributing the low rate of heart disease France to their steady consumption of red wine.

"A lot of people didn't believe it because of so many confounding effects — the easy life of the Mediterraneans and so on," said Dr. Edwin Frankel, a chemist at the University of California.

Dr. Frankel suspects that a clinical biochemist at King's

among people in southern Phenols thwart the nasty effects of LDL, a type of cholesterol tied to increased risk of heart disease.

> His research, based on mixing Phenols with LDL in a test tube, wa: published in the Feb. 20 issue of Lancet. an international medical Professor Timothy Peters.

College in London, said "it's a reasonable hypothesis," but needs to be tested in humans. Prof. Peters is an expert in alcohol misuse and toxicity.

Dr. Frankel said his research shows that red wine Phenois are antioxidants. Antioxidants, such as Vita-

mins A and E, mop up free particles, that are linked to

an increased risk of heart disease.

Some scientists believe that the interaction of free radicals with LDL prompts heart

The California investigators mixed the Phenols with blood samples from two volunteers, then added copper to speed the free ra reaction.

nols reduced the chances of LDL mixing with free radicals by 98 per cent in one sample and 60 per cent in the other sample.

They found that the Phe-

Prof. Peters said more research is needed to find out whether Phenois actually get into the bloodstreams of red wine drinkers.

Previously, Cornell University researchers attributed red wine's benefits to a different chemical, Resveratrol. It is an antifungal agent in grape skins.

The Cornell University researchers speculated Resveratrol is good for the heart because it is the key ingredient in a Japanese folk remedy used to prevent clogged

That study was published last year in the American Journal of Enology Viticul-

Dr. Frankel said his team of researchers studied Resveratrol and found that it, too, has antioxidant powers.

"I think they both contribute (to the health benefits of red wine) but I don't know how much the Resveratrol contributes compared to the other compounds," he said.

The Phenois are 1,000 times more concentrated in red wine than Resveratrol. Dr. Frankel said.

Study links vegetable mărgarine to heart disease

ing vegetable margarine for butter and other animal fat could cause, rather than prevent, heart disease, according to a study.

But the U.S. study, in the British medical journal Lancet, did not recommend people go back to lathering their baked potatoes with butter. Rather, it suggested that what you think is good for you may not really be so

The findings supports other studies that have found hardened vegetable fats can be as dangerous to health as animal fats.

"Intakes of foods that are major sources of (fatty acids formed by hydrogenated vegetable oils) — margarine, cookies, cake and white bread - were each significantly associated with higher risks of coronary heart disease," it said.

The team of Harvard University medical school researchers, headed by Dr. Walter Willett, surveyed 85.095 women in 1980.

"During eight years of follow up, there were 431 new cases of coronary heart disease," the study said.

"These findings support the hypothesis that consumption of partially hydrogenated vegetable oils may contribute to occurrence of coronary heart disease."

The culprits are "trans" fatty acids formed by hydrogenating vegetable oils to solidify them for margarine or shortening, the study said.

LONDON (R) - Substitut- It said they could influence the metabolism of essential fatty acids in the body.

The women surveyed took in most of their "trans" acids from vegetable sources — 60 per cent - as opposed to 40 per cent from beef or dairy fat and other animal sources.

11:11

Women who ate four or more teaspoons of margarine a day had a 50 per cent higher risk of heart disease. Those women who ate a lot

of animal fat tended to smoke more than those who looked to vegetable sources for their fat, and women who ate more fats containing the "trans" acids also ate more fat in general.

But the study found a strong link to heart disease caused by intake of the hardened vegetable fats even when women exercised, took vitamins and took other precautions that are generally considered to prevent heart

"Our findings must add to concern that the practice of partially hydrogenating vegetable oils to produce solid fats may have reduced the anticipated benefits of . substituting these oils for highly saturated fats, and instead contributed to the occurrence of coronary heart disease," the study said.

"Although this study in-cluded only women, the fact that blood lipids are related to intake of "trans" isomers similarly in men and in women suggests that the findings are likely to apply to men too," it added.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

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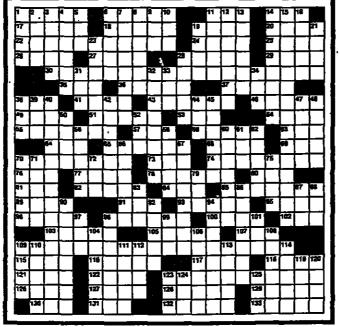
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Last Week's Cryptograms

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-By Frank N. Stein

Unhealthy habits, violence cost \$42.9b yearly in U.S. health care and Medicaid payments for By Brenda C. Coleman tobacco related illnesses in The Associated Press

CHICAGO - Unhealthy habits and violence cost the United States more than \$42.9 billion in direct medical expenses every year, the American Medical Association (AMA) estimated in a report.

Related expenses such as lost productivity boost the total to more than \$189 billion annually, according to the 22 page report, titled "factors contributing to the health care cost problem."

"Billions of dollars are spent each year treating medical conditions that could be avoided," said Dr. Daniel Johnson Jr., speaker of the AMA's House of Delegates.

"Violence, drugs, alcohol and tobacco are wreaking havoc on our health system, Dr. Johnson added in a statement accompanying the re-Smoking and alcohol abuse

cause the biggest financial

drain, even though violence

and illicit drugs often grab

more headlines, Dr. Johnson Health-care costs from smoking total \$22 billion yearly, threequarters of it spent on people under age 65, the report said.

1985, the report noted. It did not estimate indirect costs to the nation for such illnesses.

Tobacco use is blamed for 500,000 annual premature deaths, and accounts for 32 per cent of fatal cancers, 21 per cent of fatal heart disease and 88 per cent of fatal chronic lung disease, it said. Alcohol-related health-care costs are \$13.5 billion

through general medical care, the report said. Twenty-five per cent to 40 per cent of people in general hospital beds at any time are treated for complications of alcoholism, and total economic costs were estimated at

annually, most of those

\$85.8 billion in 1988, it said. "Just in those two commonly abused products ...reside an opportunity for enormous savings in our health care system, not to mention the potential for improved quality of life for those individuals abusing the substances," Dr. Johnson said.

The nation's total health care bill in the next 12 months will be \$900 billion. up from \$546 billion in 1988.

The AMA report reflects no new research but draws and it contains the latest data available, Dr. Johnson said. Though it compares figures

from several different years, the composite picture gives proportions that probably hold true today, he said.

The report said illicit drug abuse cost \$2.1 billion in direct health-care services in 1985, and \$58.3 billion in total costs in 1988, including lost productivity and crime fighting expenses.

Violent injuries added \$5.3 billion in direct medical costs to U.S. health-care expenditures in 1985, and lifetime total costs of \$45 billion for injuries that year, the report

said. Diseases related to obesity — a condition plaguing 34 million Americans — and high-fat, low fiber diets are an extremely costly problem. the report said. But it did not estimate a price.

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Fateh, Hamas form

joint command for

House defeats segregation bill

not defend the principle.

Deputy Prime Minister and

Education Minister Thougan Al

Hindawi said that government

schools were "usually segre-

gated" and co-education is used

in these schools only in remote

areas where there is not sufficient

number of students to open sepa-

rate schools for boys and girls.

In what one observer called an

apologetic attitude, Mr. Hindawi

said banning co-education will

deny many citizens the constitu-

tional right to basic education

because the government will not

be able to build segregated

schools in areas where there are

only 10 or 20 male and female

of students at the country's 243

co-education schools are below

dents who attend co-education

schools abide by values and tradi-

tions more than students who

Mr. Fagir challenged this asser-

Hindawi) said is incorrect," said

Mr. Faqir, a former minister of

The defeat of the school seg-

regation bill represented the first

failure of the Islamists to amend

draft laws to Islamic law in the

amending the draft youth law to

segregate sexes at swimming

pools and sports clubs, in baning

investments of the civil defence

martyrs fund assets in usury and

forcing Royal Jordanian airlines

not to serve alcohol aboard flights

to and from Muslim countries.

They have succeeded in

current session of the House.

"What the minister (Mr.

don't," Mr. Hindawi said.

Awqaf and Islamic affairs.

Moreover, he said, 72 per cent

"I have reports that many stu-

students.

grade four.

(Continued from page 1)

cused Deputy Abdul Baqi Jammo, who did not support the bill, of compromising his principles. But an angry Jammo fought back saying he was "not the one who voted in favour of usury," a reference to the positive vote some Brotherhood deputies gave on the 1993 fiscal budget.

The House voted on the segregation bill after Mr. Nabulsi, a member of the Judiciary Committee, read a statement in which he said there was no clear Islamic ruling against co-education.

He cited sayings by the Prophet Mohammad to prove that Islam does not call for sex segregation at public places and argued for giving people the choice to decide on whether they want to send their children to segregated or co-education schools.

There are also members of society whose culture allows for co-education," said Mr. Nabulsi, pointing out that sexes are not segregated at "universities, the

streets and the work place. Brotherhood deputies kept in-terrupting Mr. Nabulsi while he was speaking and he completely stopped talking for three times as shouts against his speech came from different corners of the domed Parliament building.
Independent Islamist Ali Al

Faqir said that Islam explicitly calls for the segregation of sexes, adding that "we were not asked when sexes were allowed to mix at universities and offices."

The government tried to justify the presence of co-education schools in the Kingdom but did Jordan awaits Arab talks

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Kaddoumi said in his talks with Mr. Sharaa he had underlined the need for Israel to comply with U.N. Security Council Resolution 799 and return all the evictees to their homes.

"There should be a comprehensive solution to the deportees problem; that is to say, the immediate enforcement of the U.N. resolution," Mr. Kaddoumi said.

He said the Arab parties to the talks, including the PLO, are conducting bilateral consultations among themselves to determine the date and venue of a meeting in which they will all participate.

Palestinians (Continued from page 1)

"I believe that Israel must make it clear that there must be no deportations in the future," he

told a news conference. "The principle is the most im-portant thing," Mr. Husseini said. "Procedures can be discussed and can lead to agreements. We are ready to talks about everything if the principle has

been agreed." He said that the Palestinian delegation wanted Israel to implement Security Council Resolution 799 - demanding the immediate return of the exiles - in

But he said the Palestinians would take into account Israeli "problems of security or logistic problems about how to bring back the people."

The United States and Israel worked out a staged return of exiles under which 101 of them would be allowed back immediately and the rest by the end

of this year at the latest. But Palestinian leaders have not accepted this formula. Mr. Husseini said he believed the peace talks would resume on

April 20 "if there is a will from the Israeli side." He rejected suggestions the talks might continue without Palestinian participation if Arab states agreed to go to Washington

without them. "I don't believe we are risking being out of the negotiations," Mr. Husseini saaid. "We are the main element and without us I doubt there will be any sort of

Mr. Husseini also appealed to the United States to resume a dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). which unofficially advises the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, citing Britain's decision to resume ministerial con-

tacts on Tuesday.

(Continued from page 1)

damentalist, said the suspect had lost his passport in 1988 shortly after arriving in the United States to find work.

"Maybe somebody stole it and is using it," he said. The passport had been reissued after inquiries by American and Jordanian authorities, he said.

"The whole thing does not make sense," said his father. "It has been concocted by the Mossad and the Zionist lobby to divert world sympathy from the deportees by linking them to terror," he said, referring to hundreds of Palestinians expelled by

Israel. "Of course they found in Mohammad three key specifications — he is bearded, regularly attends the mosque and is a Palestinian. It is a well-studied

Rabin: Camp David-style summit possible

return.

(Continued from page 1)

but would provide no timetable. Rabin was careful to keep his own counsel and not foreclose any options. He would only say that he is "open for discussions on anything Clinton wants to discuss. Rabin has repeatedly said in the past that without prior U.S.-Israel coordination the

peace talks will not succeed. Rabin refused to say how he planned to coordinate with the U.S. He did say he is carrying 'no blueprint solutions, no maps," that would envisage any withdrawal from the Golan Heights in return for normalised ties with Syria.

He insisted that Israel's position on the Golan has not changed, but pointedly refused to repeat his old formula. "Our position was as it is. We accept (Security Council) resolutions 242 and 338 as applicable to the achievement of peace treaty between Syria and Israel. The

Israelis chase and kill school boy

(Continued from page 1)

one metre above the ground. no reports of injuries. Arab re-

U.S. military equipment in Israel, but gave no details. killing which brought to 1,049 the number of Palestinians slain by

meaning is withdrawal of the

Israeli armed forces n the Golan

Heights to secure and recognised

boundaries which will be defined

once we know what we can get in

Asked if he did not mean

Asked if he would raise the

idea of obtaining U.S. security

assurances in return for with

drawal, Rabin would only say,

"The purpose of the visit... is first

and foremost to create a better

understanding, to see the op-

to the idea of Israel proposing a

defence treaty with the U.S. as

soldiers do not have to protect

Israelis, and said he preferred

U.S. hardware to U.S. troops.

He suggested that he reached an

agreement with former President

George Bush on prepositioning

He said he is proud that U.S.

part of a peace package.

Rabin'indicated he is opposed

from the Golan," he replied,

"I've said what I've said."

Also Wednesday, unknown assailants fired at a Jewish settler shooting, but the bus driver was army said.

U.N.: Iraq not answering

(Continued from page 1)

sure that it will not engage in such activities in the future. Mr. Perricos said the Iraqis' reluctance to disclose details of their former supply network was part of their non-compliance.

Asked what he would say to the Iraqi official in charge of ensuring full compliance. Mr. Perricos said: "Full transparency is the only way leading to full compliance; lack of transparency can only be at your disadvan-

In Bahrain, site of the regional field office for the U.N. special commission, another team was preparing to go in on Thursday morning just as Mr. Perricos'

team was due to come out. The team leader, American chemical and biological weapons expert Dave Franz, said 19 experts from about six countries were expected to fly to pursue inspections of Iraqi facilities.

Yeltsin camp fighting

(Continued from page 1)

Russia: The president or parlia-The agreement also suspended several constitutional articles that severely restrict the powers of the president. One article, suspended since December, calls for the immediate removal of the president if congress determines he has violated the constitution.

Another article deprives him of

right to initiate legislation.

Palestinian uprising AMMAN (AP) — The Palestine working hard to Liberation Organisation's (PLO) present tension."

mainstream Fatch group and the Several attempts over the pastyear have failed to end the con-t Muslim fundamentalist Hamas have agreed to form a joint comflict between the two factions. mand to direct the uprising Key differences remain over-Palestinian participation in the against Israel and a committee to U.S.-arranged Middle East peace end a bloody rift between them, a

process, which Hamas has vehesenior Hamas official said mently opposed. Hamas, acronym for the Isla-: mic Resistance Movement, wass representative in Jordan, said two formed after the start of then Palestinian uprising in 1987. It has since become the PLO's main coordinate efforts on behalf of Palestinian expellees and another rival for influence in the occupied-

to maintain consultations be-Hamas gained prominence into December after Israel expelled: tween the two groups on other issues related to the Palestinian over 400 suspected fundamental-The formation of the commitists to Lebanon. tees and the joint command was

Lebanon has refused to accept the exiles, who remain stranded in a tent-camp between an Israelioccupied strip in southeast Lebasaid further meetings to appoint non and the Lebanese army's

forward-!-most positions. Earlier this month, Hamas launched a diplomatic offensive to secure a wider role in Middle East politics. Mr. Nazzal and Mr. Gosheh met in Amman twice with a U.S. diplomat to explain their 1 viewpoints

They also met with the Jordanbased ambassadors of Britain, France, Italy and Germany. Hamas representatives in

Khartoum, Sudan, conferred with Spanish and Chinese diplo-

Extraordinary session planned

(Continued from page 1)

islation - most probably the labour law and the illegal acquisition of wealth law - and to fulfill its pledge to raise salaries of public employees.

"The extraordinary session will be called soon and it will be short to allow the next government. which will be a temporary one to prepare and oversee this year's national elections, ample time for

its task," one of the sources said. A Cabinet reshuffle which was expected immediately after the Holy Month of Ramadan, would

He did not explain what the

United States might do to help

arrange a settlement. He recalled

former President Jimmy Carter's

role in summoning the late Egyp-

tian President Anwar Sadat and

Israeli Prime Minister Menachem

Begin to his Camp David retreat

in 1978 and bridging differences

between them.

But Mr. Christopher said there

were no precise antecedents in

Mr. Christopher was expected

history for the current situation.

to testify on the peace talks later

Wednesday before an appropria-tions subcommittee of the House

The Palestinians have objected

to Israel's proposals for limited

self-rule on the West Bank and in

Mr. Christopher said Tuesday

that U.S. talks with the Palestine

Liberation Organisation (PLO) would not be resumed. He told

reporters the PLO had failed "to

of Representatives.

of Palestinian expellees.

U.S. issues invitations to bilaterals (Continued from page 1)

> invitation to the peace talks. We were very happy to receive the letter," foreign ministry spokesman Rafi Gamzou said.

Dovin.

to Europe.

to attend the talks in any event.

Washington in April. We have reason to be confident they'll be there," Mr. Harrop told repor-

Gaza and, more recently, to terms reached by the United States and Israel for repatriation on their plans.

assist us on terrorist matters." Israel Wednesday accepted the

He said Israel had formally

deputy foreign minister, by U.S.

But in Damascus, governmentrun newspapers were downbeat about the peace process.

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Amman-Jordan

therefore be delayed until the end

Most pressing among the duties of the Lower House during the extraordinary session will be intor employees and retirees roughly JD 15 increase on their monthly

troducing an estimated JD 70 million budget annex which will

facilitate the discussions, we think the parties realise this is an unusual opportunity for them, and frankly I think they will end up accepting the invitations."

20, Mr. Gamzou said.

delivered to Yossi Beilin, the Ambassador William Harrop and Russian Ambassador Alexander

mon Peres, is currently on a trip U.S. Ambassador to Israel

William Harrop said the United States expected the Palestinians "We believe they will come...

There was no immediate com-

The talks are to resume April The invitation to Israel was

Israel's foreign minister, Shi-

ment from the other participants in the talks, Syria and Lebanon,

of the extraordinary session, the

sources predicted.

bring around 450,000 public secsalaries. The Financial Committee of the Lower House had demanded a JD 20 increase but the government at that time pledged itself only to a "substan-

tial" increase.

Second suspect

we expect to see them in

showed a reporter a hole where a bullet struck a nearby wall about Haji, who attended a boarding school in Beit Hanina, was buried in his home village of Burka near the West Bank town of Nablus later Wednesday. About 1,000 people accompanied the coffin draped with a Palestinian flag. Soldiers opened fire to break up the funeral march, but there were

In Jerusalem, Arab merchants closed their shop to protest the Israelis since the 1987 start of the uprising against Israeli occupa-

bus in the occupied Gaza Strip and passengers returned fire, the army said. No-one was hurt in the slightly injured by stones, the

The army said a note claiming responsibility by the Muslim fundamentalist group Hamas was left at the scene along with discarded

Throwing' a party

pluralism.

By Saad Hattar

A JOKE from the "iron curtain" days goes: "What is the difference between a party in the Soviet Union and elsewhere? ...Answer: People elsewhere go out looking for a party, whereas in the Soviet Union the "Party" is

out looking for you.' In Jordan today the prevailing trend is "let's party." The multitude of political parties springing up in the country now offers Jordanians an ample choice to indulge in political life, a practice until two months ago considered taboo.

The nearly four-decade old hide-and-seek, sometimes catand-mouse, game between the authorities and the underground parties has ended with the enactment in September of a law lega-

lising political pluralism. And the new era has ushered in tens of parties, spanning the political spectrum from left to ultraright, each carrying a different ideology and school of thought, indigenous and alien.

But this newly acquired political pluralism has also created a chaotic climate against a backdrop of political uncertainty. So far 15 parties have obtained official recognition by the government, and the number is expected

to rise as many others scramble to recruit the minimum 50 founding members required by law to "throw" a party.
A moment's look at some segments of the Arab World's history shows that in the fifties, the fad was towards pan-Arabism;

the sixties saw the rise of anti-

Israeli sentiments and a tendency

towards martyrdom in defence of

Arab soil and dignity. In the

seventies and eighties it was oil and consumerism that predominated. The Arab masses' dream of unity and future prosperity was all but erased at the outset of the nineties which saw the "finale" of Arab brethren theatre. Today, the vogue is political

But a glimpse at the political parties' map provides a bleak picture in the absence of group planning and sound organisation-

Parties on the left are frag-

mented, fragile and incoherent. The centrists run their affairs as if they were share-holding com-Even the deep-rooted Islamic Action Front, the most organised

of all, is plagued by division. So where is all this going to lead us? It seems we are destined to witness dozens of political parties in a country of about four million people. And the game could go into overtime with no

Parties should uphold the interests of the country and the well-being of citizens rather than the narrow, personal interests of fellow members only. After all, well-established

democracies are known to be

built on two or three parties at

clear winner.

most, which rotatingly vie for the helm of the nation. It is high time Jordanians unified their ranks and joined strong, publicly accepted, selfgenerating parties that can sur-

The writer is a Jordanian journalist who contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

vive and provide.

CONTRACT FACTOR

Wednesday.

Mohammad Nazzal, Hamas'

other joint committees, one to

question also will be formed.

agreed upon in five rounds of talks since December between Hamas and Fateh.

In an interview, Mr. Nazzal

members of the commissions

were planned, but would not say

where or when these will be held.

people each of the committees

will include.

It also was not clear how many

Mr. Nazzal said the most re-

cent meetings last Saturday and

Monday were "positive." In addi-

tion to himself, these were

attended by Hamas' spokesman

Ibrahim Goshe and Fateh repre-

He said that both groups were

sentative Abbas Zaki.

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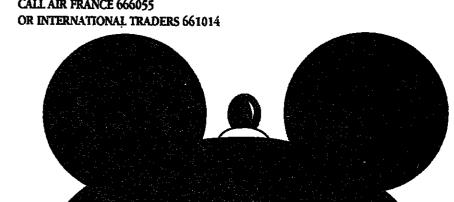
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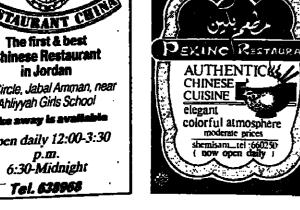


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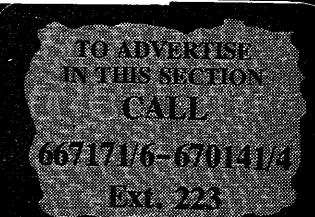
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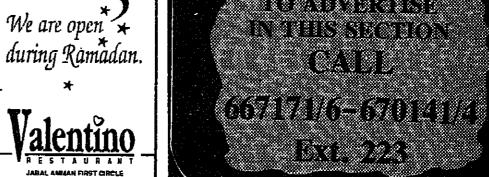
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Titleholders Portugal crash out; Brazil, England, U.S. set to advance

champion Brazil, England and the United States need only to draw their final first round matches Thursday to advance to the quarterfinals of soccer's World Youth Championships.

The final seven qualifiers in the under 20 tournament will be decided Thursday, when all 16 teams play their final first round

Brazil faces Norway in Adelaide Thursday needing only one point to be assured of advancing from Group D.

England also needs only a share of the points when it faces Turkey in Group C in Melbourne to be certain of clinching a spot in the last eight.

Australia, which has clinched a spot from Group A, is the only team so far to have secured a quarterfinal berth. Defending champion Portugal and Cameroon have been eliminated from quarterfinal contention.

In group A, the winner of Thursday's Colombia-Russia contest will advance. Russia will progress if the Sydney match is a

Germany and Uruguay, each with three points, and African champion Ghana, which has two



e player Hugo porfiro (centre) prepares to kick the ball as he s surrounded by three Uruguaian players. Portugal was defeated 2-1

spots from Brisbane-based Group

Germany will play Uruguay on Thursday, with Ghana playing

Brazil will advance unless it loses by three goals or more against winless Norway in group D in Abelaide. Norway needs a big victory over Brazil to progress, while the winner of Saudi Arabia and Mexico will progress. If those teams draw, Mexico has the better goal difference.

England would need to lose by

deprived of a quarterfinal place from Group C in Melbourne, while the United States will progress as long as it gets at least a tie against South Korea. Everything is possible in soc-

four goals against Turkey to be

cer but the odds are against us. said Turkish assistant coach Yalman Mijdat. Germany will be without three

key players when it faces Uruguay in Brisbane. Striker Carsten Jancker and two yellow card cautions, while midfielder Guido Jorres is sidelined with a broken ankle.

Brazilian coach Julio Leal was confident Wednesday after his team's bruising 2-1 victory over Mexico Tuesday — a match that ended with rival players jostling each other in the tunnel to the locker rooms.

"We got the feeling of our way to play. Now we must see if we can play it for 90 minutes next time," Leal said.

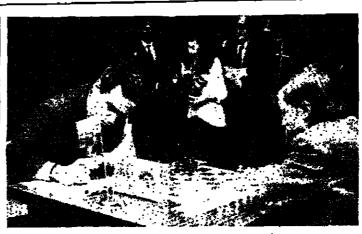
American coach Bobby Howe said his team would go flat out for victory over South Korea rather than playing safe for a draw.

"They wouldn't know how. They are too unsophisticated," Howe said. "They will play their own flowing game and that's probably the best way, because attack is the best form of de-

Saudi Arabia faces an uphili battle against Mexico.

The Saudis will be without striker Fahad Al Ghesheyan and midfielder Mohammad Al Jahani, both of whom had been suspended.

The tournament continues through March 20, with quarterfinals scheduled for Saturday and defender Max Ederl both have Sunday.



Current chess champion Gary Kasparov (left) takes down a move as he is watched by predecessor Anatoly Karpov during their match at the Linares chess tournament (AFP photo)

Kasparov defeats Karpov in Linares grudge match

LINARES (R) — World champion Garry Kasparov crushed his old rival, former world champion Anatoly Karpov, in a 10th-round grudge match at the Linares Grandmaster chess tournament

Tuesday. Kasparov defeated his fellow Russian after 27 moves and three and a half hours' play to lead the tournament with seven and a half points from 10 games and just. three rounds remaining.

Everyone expected the clash between Kasparov and Karpov, who have contested five matches for the World Championship and faced each other in more than 150 games, to be the decisive one. Having overcome his biggest obstacle and taken a lead of a full point, Kasparov looks firm favourite to win the tournament.

The game lived up to expectations. The two old foes, whose personal animosity is well known, made frequent eye contact as they slugged it out, playing their most combative chess in an attempt to destroy each other.

"Karpov was humiliated. Gary just annihilated him," said British master Malcolm Pein.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDSAY MARCH II, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Look into whatever you do not understand and search out the truth of any situation even if you have to ferret out facts that you yourself don't want to focus on clearly at this time.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Make sure that you do not feel closed in today by circumstances beyond your control and keep poised and calm; while tonight brings you relaxation.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You feel acquaintances are letting you down when actually they are so preoccupied with their own troubles, they can't take on yours

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You certainly would be wise to be most careful to do nothing that could in anyway affect your standing in your community, although appearance can downgrade you.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You feel pressured to get off to new scenes and new ac-quaintances but it is exactly what you should not do or trouble en-

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Your hunches and intutitions are out of whack now but you are not apt to realise it and to push just the wrong interests and lose out where it counts the most.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You are very critical of an

THE BETTER HALF,

associate but if you are not tactful and without sarcastic comments you can lose one who is very goodfor your life.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A fellow associate gives you at real pain in the neck and you wantto tell that person off in no unmistaken terms but it would profit you nil today.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to Novem-. ber 21) You are determined tohave a good time and can't seem to get going easily in such a direction so relax and enjoy whatever comes. along without making waves.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 10*
December 21) A real ruckus can take place at your home unless you' realise it is the planets testing your patience and selfcontrol and laugh!

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Recklessness driving or in any other way in motion could quickly bring accident or other costly trouble so set a moder-

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You are sorely (empted to spend more than you can afford or to commit yourself to some obligations of a practical nature that would be most unwise. .

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You are discontented and disgrunted and want to take it out on, moever is nearest to you but you would be doing an injustice, need, to harmonise your own thoughts.

By Glasbergen

Courier era taking shape

INDIAN WELLS California (R) - The Jim Courier era in men's tennis is taking shape.
The 22-year-old American has

learned how to be ranked number one in the world, and it shows nearly every time he walks onto the tennis court these days. Courier's lead over the rest of rivals is at its highest point and his

confidence level is even higher. Courier won his third title in four tournaments this year at the \$1.4 million Champions Cup in Indian Wells, California, last weekend. His victory raised his match record to an impressive 17-1 — his best start ever — and increased his lead over his comnatriot second-ranked Pete Sampras to 675 points on the ATP

Courier will be the top seed at the \$1.4 million Lipton Championships beginning Friday in

The red-headed Floridian though is not concerned with his. impressive numbers.

I don't worry about the ranking," said Courier, who will be bidding for a third consecutive said Courier, who will French Open on the Roland Garros clay courts in Paris strting in May. "I'm pleased that I've won three tournaments, but the most important thing is that I'm play-

ing well and trying to improve.

This year, Courier has opted

Key Biscayne, Florida.

The long, hard road to gain the number one ranking in the world, the fight to keep it and the process of marketing himself took their toll on Courier last year. He admittedly lost some steam at the end of the last year, due to an overbooked schedule and Davis Cup matches.

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not to play Davis Cup for the defending champion U.S. team in the first round later this month in Australia. He has not yet decided on the later rounds. He has also dropped some tournaments from his schedule, notably last month's tour stop in San Francisco where he took over the number one

"I was spread a little too thin last year, and I learned my lesson," said Courier, who lost the top ranking briefly last fall. "I didn't play San Francisco this vear because it was took close to the Australian Open." Courier also feels like he is

ranking in 1992.

competing more against himself than his challengers now that has been number one for 56 weeks. "I just want to be the best player I can be, that's what I'm competing against," Courier said. "My serve and my forehand are my biggest shots, but my mental toughness is my biggest strength.

If that's in order, the guy on the

other side of the net becomes

Wayne Ferreira of South Africa, who was nearly blown off the court by Courier in Sunday's final, spoke for most of Courier's 1993 opponents when he said: "We as players know why he's ranked number one and he deserves to be there. He really comes through in the big matches. He's really tough both mentally and physically."



Maja Usowa and Alexander Schulin (AFP photo)

Milan withdraws bid for 2000 Olympics

MILAN (R) - The city of Milar swept up in a political corruption storm shaking Italy, has decided to withdraw its bid to stage the 2000 Olympic Games.

The Corriere Della Sera said in an unsourced report that the Milan 2000 Committee, which was organising the bid, took the decision at a meeting late Tues-

Milan's withdrawal would leave the International Olympic Committee (IOC) with six candidates — Sydney, Peking, Istan-bul, Brasilia, Berlin and Britain's Manchester.

Table Tennis Federation cracks down on solvents

LONDON (AP) — Table tennis officials are cracking down on the use of glue and other solvents which can improve the performance of rackets.

The executive committee of the International Table Tennis Federation announced measures Tuesday aimed at preventing the use of illegal substances at the May 11-23 World Championships in Gotenburg, Sweden.

The ITTF said players may not use rackets which contain any aromatic or chlorinated solvents, only rubber adhesive will be per-

Rackets will be tested at random during the early rounds of the World Championships. Rackets of all players will be tested during the late rounds.

Albert Shipley, the ITTF's administrative director, said the federation had developed a special device to test rackets for illegal solvents. He said some players have

been using rubber glue on their rackets to produce a "much faster catapult effect."

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY MARCH 12, 1993 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You are under unusually good aspects to go to those withwhom you have any sort of contact to let them know just exactly what it is that you expect of them. Communicating at this time will be a two way

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Project your own attractiveness to get best results early, then make sure you do nothing to upset a bigwig and tonight go after new

long term goals. TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Now one who is an experienced advisor with your charm after which avoid a new project and tonight get together with your long

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Meet a new admirer of one different views to your own and don't get involved in a shady business matter but later join close associates in discussions

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Add touches to your sur-roundings that make your work easier and avoid going off with an insistent ally but tonight do what improves your health.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Concentrate today on having a good time and make engagements for all such and do no more dreary tasks than necessary while tonight enjoy home pleasures.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You can get your home or

with omar sharif \$-Tannah hirsch

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

EAST

2 ♥ A K J 9 8 5 3

Pass 2 ♦ Pass Pass 4 NT Pass Pass 6 ♥ Pass

To put yourself in the same pre-

hearts, cover the East-West cards

have propelled your side to a sub-par heart slam. Certainly, it is hard

to fault the auction. To make mat-

ters worse, West's opening diamond

lead has struck your weak spot. What card do you play to the first

with your thumbs and read on.

ament as South, declarer at six

Wasted values in the black suits

≜ A 9 8 5 3 ∇ 6 4

North East

NORTH

SOUTÉ

Opening lead: Ten of 🛇

₱ Q 10 6 4 772

♠ K J 7 ♥ Q 10 ♥ A J 7 3 2 ♠ K 10 5

GOREN BRIDGE

A NO-GUESS SITUATION

family worked out to your satisfaction early but then avoid a temptating offer to upset basic conditions while later back an ally.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Show your best abilities to an outsider you want in your project keep you from public interest, tonight visit a close companion. SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Put more spark into your usual duties which should be easy now, then put aside messages until a better moment while later money

matters improve. SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A fine day for enjoying yourself in the morning during spare hours as you wish, avoid a financial commitment soon after, then make new outlets, associates

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) There is some muddled thinking your mind today so depend more upon the views, suggestions of your family today; and intimate advisors tonight.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You can be productive in your outside interests during the morning, then don't be drawn into a secret situation but tonight be with good friends.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Stick to practical and money matters in the morning for best results, don't listen to a depressive advisor right after and tonight meet with a bigwig.

We have seen players duck this

trick and hope for a diamond con-

tinuation, then try to set up a long diamond for a spade discard. This does not seem like the hand for such duplicity, so you should rise with the

The wisdom of your decision strikes home immediately when East drops the king. If this card is

honest (and why shouldn't it be?),

your chances of getting home have

improved slightly. You draw trumps in two rounds, ending in hand, and

lead a low spade. East follows low.

Do you play the jack or the king, and why?

If you think that it's a straight

ous. Your only hope is to insert the

If West has the ace of spades.

wouldn't the defender have risen

with that card and cashed the queen

of diamonds to beat the slam?

Therefore, East must have the ace,

so your one chance is that the queen is with West.

The gods are smiling on you. When Bast wins the ace of spades and cannot lead a second diamond,

you get to discard your diamond loser on the king of spades. Just

another routine slam.



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RAAPPE Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

TEMPORARY.

Jumbles: FORAY HOVEL WOBBLE SURETY

What the moth hoped to see when he ate a hole in the rug—THE FLOOR SHOW

THE Daily Crossword by Raymond Harnel

ACROSS
1 Beatles film
5 Rock group
9 "— Here to
Eternity"
13 "The Waste

Murray 16 Margarita garnish 17 Educational tool 19 ''-- Karenina person 21 Type of rug 23 Make laçe 25 Accompany 26 Leg part

30 Get-up-and-go 32 Bookkeeper's book 36 Seed covering 37 Molecular component 39 Leap forth 41 Steeveless

Yesterday's

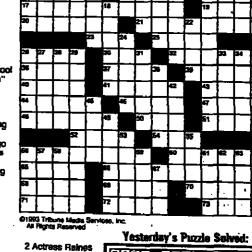
garment 43 Lack 44 Rub out 46 Headline 47 Arrived 48 America's Cup entrants 50 Australian bird 51 Turkish official 52 Cookware 54 Feminine suffix 56 Of Plymouth,

e.g. 60 Deep red 65 Jai --66 Usher's need 68 "Meet — St. Louis" 69 Volcanie outour

70 Tackle box item 71 Haven 72 Tree of 73 Kett of the comics

12 Nasty 14 The thing there Andronic 27 Macaw 28 Spring ito 29 Ignition

63 Used a gun 64 Sicilian



5 Drs.' gp. 6 Hook point 7 Moisten gently 8 Beset 9 Beals starrer 10 Skating place 11 Atlanta arena 12 Nacet OTT ANIM WAS ABASE OMAR BEDT BAGHDADBYTRESEA

temperature 31 Card game 33 Ships 33 Shine 34 Oily resin

35 Heart s nome
42 Chew noisily
45 Short jacket
49 Hold back
53 Dish of greens
55 Wrigglers
56 Tent group
57 Pancake pat

Peanuts

and maintenance





Andy Capp







Mutt'n'Jeff





Economy Economy Kenya devalues official

shilling by 20 per cent

more than 80 k NAIROBI (R) — Kenya amounced a 20 per cent devaluation of its official exchange rate wednesday, the latest in a package of reforms to woo back West-Wednesday, the latest m a paca-age of reforms to woo back West-ern aid.

The central bank said the dol-an clash (amount of the contral bank said the dol-an clash (amount of the central bank said the dol-an clash (amount of the central bank said the dol-an clash (amount of the central bank said the dol-an clash (amount of the central bank said the dol-an clash (amount of the central bank said the dol-an clash (amount of the central bank said the dol-an clash (amount of the central bank said the dol-an clash (amount of the central bank said the dol-

an clash funds against 36.4 previously. Similar against 36.4 previously. Similar adjustments were made against adjustments were made against all other major currencies.

The official exchange rate is used only to service government date of \$77 billion and to pay for

used only to service government debt of \$7 billion and to pay for government imports.

The government floated the currency for most commercial currency for Feb. 19 on the

transactions on Feb. 19 on the eve of a visit by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to discuss a resumption of aid.

a resumption of aid.
This led to a devaluation of in tolkic hands: This led to a devantable to 57 shillings around 37 per cent to 57 shillings c Michigan around 37 per cent to 37 support of foreign exchange.

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Abu Rihat, si

Western donors and the IMF and World Bank suspended aid to Kenya in 1991 to force the government to honour long-held promises to liberalise its eco-

To date the government has freed exchange rates and the wheat trade and announced tighter control over government spending to rein in money supply. The commercial value of the

shilling is the rate which tourists and businessmen get from banks for foreign exchange.

The Feb. 19 devaluation has raised prices sharply and econom-

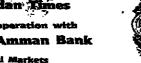
ists fear that it may add a danger-

ous twist to the inflationary spir-

But it has made hard currency available to businessmen, who previously had to surrender their dollars and francs to the central bank.

Financial Markets

in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank



		
Сыгтелсу	New York Close Date 9/3/93	Tobyo Close Date 10/3/93
Sterling Pound	1.4400	1.4380
Deutsche Mark	1.6664	1.6630
Swiss Franc	1.5405	1.5345
French Franc	5.6525	5.6503 **
Japanese Yen	117.70	117.90
European Curreny Unit	1.1660	1.1656 **

USD Per STG

Eurocurrency Interest Ri	itas		Date: 10	/3/1993
Сигтевсу	I MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.00	3.12	3.25	3.56
Sterling Pound	5.87	5_87	5.63	5.50
Deutsche Mark	8.25	7.87	7.37	6.75
Swiss Franc	5.25	5.06	4.68	4.50
French Franc	10.87	10.87	9.81	8.75
Japanese Yen	3.37	3.21	3.12	3.09
European Currency Unit	9.19	8.95	8.62	7.96

Rierbank bid	rates for amounts	exceeding U.S	i. Dollars 1,00	99.000 or equivale	pr.
recious i	Metals ·			Date: 10	/3/1993
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm°	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Exte Sulletin

	Date: 10/3/199	
Сигтевсу	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6920	0.6940
Sterling Pound	C.9939	0.9989
Deutsche Mark	0.4155	0.4176
Swiss Franc	0.4503	0.4026
French Franc	0.1225	0.1231
Japanese Yen ⁴	. 0.5871	0.5900
Dutch Guilder	0.3698	0.3716
Swedish Krona	0.0909	0.0914
ltalian Lira [÷]	0.0430	0.0432
Belgian Franc	0.02020	0.02030

Other Currencies	Date: 10/3/1993		
Сигтепсу	Bid	Offer	
Bahraini Dinar	1.8110	1.8260	
Lebanese Lira*	0.038445	0.040825	
Sandi Riyal	0.1840	0.1850	
Kuwaki Dinar	2.2200	2.2430	
Qatari Riyal	0.1873	0.1886	
Egyptian Pound	0.1940	0.2150	
Omani Riyal	1.7700	1.7870	
UAE Dirham	0.1873	0.1886	
Greek Drachma**	0.3075	0.3275	
Cypriot Pound	1.3840	1.4150	

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	8/3/1993 Close	9/3/1993 Close
All-Share	190.50	190.84
Banking Sector	132.42	132.74
Insurance Sector	213.02	213.50
Industry Sector	271.02	271.27
Services Sector	249.21	250.30
December 31, 1990 = 100		

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednes-

One U.S. dollar

1.2473/78 1.6630/40 1.8699/709 1.5355/65 34,20/24 5.6450/500 1612/1617 118.02/07 7.6050/150 7.0625/725

Canadian dollar Deutschemarks Dutch guilders Swiss francs Belgian francs French francs Italian lire Japanese yen Swedish crowns Norwegian crowns Danish crowns

6.3750/850 \$1.4320/30 One sterling One ounce of gold \$326.25/326.75

Saatchi reports \$859m

loss

LONDON (R) - Advertising and marketing services group Saatchi and Saatchi PLC Tuesday reported a 1992 pre-tax loss of £595.1 million (\$859 million) after a massive goodwill writedown under new British accounting rules.

Without the writedown, which totalled £600 million (\$866 million), the company said its profit before tax and excluding unusual items was £18.9 million (\$27.3 million), above share analaysts' forecasts of £14 to £17 million (\$20.2 to \$24.5 million).

Saatchi, once the world's biggest advertising agency and famous in Britain for running election advertising companies in the late 1970s and 1980s for the ruling Conservative Party, noted a slight growth in revenue to £748.0 million (\$1.08 billion) and a 67 per cent leap in trading profits to £34.2 million (\$49.3 million). That was in line with market forecasts.

"The group must continue to concentrate on revenue growth and focus on core areas of expertise," group chairman Maurice Saatchi said in a statement.

"It is our objective to continue to improve margins and profitability during 1993," he pointed

The company decided to present its results according to new British accounting rules which are not yet compulsory, and it restated its 1991 results accordingly.

RABAT (R) — Morocco, one of in December 1989 to privatise 112 enterprises including the sugar industry. The whole package is

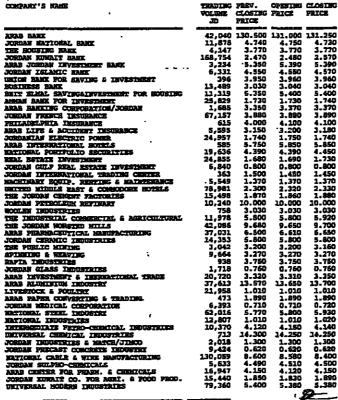
Domestic consumption of sugar estimated at 36 kilogrammes per head a year is one of the highest in the world. A good proportion goes into the national

Parliament adopted legislation

Government in Tunis Air

ernment has decided to sell 10 per cent of its stake in the national carrier Tunis Air, officials said Wednesday. The state owns 85 per cent of Tunis Air, which has a capital of \$19.3 million. Air France owns five per cent and the rest is held by Tunisian social funds. A Tunis Air spokesman said details were being studied and the sale could take a few months. Officials said the sale through the Tunis Stock Exchange was in line with a government policy of full or partial privatisation of state enterprises. Tunis Air had a turnover of about \$400 million in 1992 and transported 2.3 million passengers. Tunisia has started opening aviation to the private sector in the last two years. Tunis Air has given domestic flights up to a private company Tuninter, in which it has a 40 per cent stake. Another private company, Air-Liberte Tunisie, has been anthorised to run charter flights between Tunisia and several European destinations.

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Moroccan sugar industry heads privatisation drive

the world's biggest sugar consumer, is putting privatisation of 11 sugar companies and factories at the forefront of its economic

liberalisation programme. beverage, mint tea.

to sell part of equity

TUNIS (R) - The Tunisian gov-

estimated to be worth between 30 and 40 billion dirhams (\$3.3 to \$4.4 billion). Privatisation Minister Moulay Zine Zahidi said in January the

government would go ahead with its liberalisation programme, privatising all the 112 state-owned firms by 1995.

The first sugar firm was sold off together with five hotels at the end of last year and the remaining 10 will be offered for sale this

The sell-offs are open to both domestic and foreign investors. "The companies scheduled for privatisation, including sugar industry firms, are in general in good financial health or reshaped to meet the demands of potential purchasers," said Economics Professor Abdelali Doumou.

Since independence in 1956. Morocco's policy has been to substitute home-grown sugar for imports which used to come mainly from Cuba.

Today domestic output is estimated at half a million tonnes a vear and imports at around 400,000 tonnes, representing 36 per cent of total consumption.

The first firm to go under the hammer was the Fez-based Societe de Derives du Sucre (SOD-ERS) which refines sugar and makes yeast.

SODERS equity capital, held by the state agency Office de Developpement Industriel (ODI) and the Sucrerie Nationale de Beht (SUNAB), is 23.1 million dirhams (\$2.8 million).

In the offer, which closed Dec. 29, 35.6 per cent of SODERS shares owned by the state were purchased by the French group

Lesaffre had already 9.7 per cent of SODERS before privatisation. The remaining 64.4 per cent of shares were bought by

private shareholders. The tender specified that 77,016 shares out of a total of 82,536 were to be sold. The rest were reserved for company em-

The financial situation of the other 10 sugar plants is being audited before tenders are issued in the next few months, a privatisation ministry spokesman said.

Morocco's refined sugar production was 746,000 tonnes in 1990 and 784,000 in 1991, according to official figures. Industry sources said the total would rise steadily to keep pack with the 2.4 per cent annual population in-

According to the state tea and sugar agency Office National du

can sugar imports were 264,000 tonnes in 1990, 308,000 in 1991 and 406,000 in 1992.

"We expect to buy some 406,000 tonnes of sugar this year mainly from Brazil and Swaziland," an ONTS spokesman said. About 26,000 tonnes out of 406,000 tonnes to be imported will be white sugar and the rest

Morocco buys large quantities on the international market through traders but still depends largely on Latin America.

Government figures show imports from Brazil were 238,000 tonnes in 1991 at a cost of 503 million dirhams (\$55.8 million).

Morocco imports refined sugar from Mexico, Argentina, the Dominican Republic and also from Swaziland. ONTS said some 40,000 to 60,000 tonnes of sugar would be imported from Swazi-The et du Sucre (ONTS), Moroc- land this year.

Turkey, Azerbaijan sign pipeline deal

billion pipeline to carry crude oil ann sure parliament will soon from Baku via Iran to the approve it," he added. from Baku via Iran to the Mediterranean coast.

Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel and Azeri Oil Minister Sabit Bagirov signed the accord for Azerbaijan's first big oil export project since independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.

"It will be an outlet for Azeri and Central Asian oil to world markets. The project will be a sign of Azerbaijan's political and economic independence," Mr.

Bagirov said. Mr. Demirel said the project had enormous economic poten-

"The pipeline is a black golden beit from Baku to Turkey. It will create a second Gulf in Turkey," he told reporters.

The agreement envisages a 1,060-kilometre long pipeline that would pass through Iranian territory for 67 kilometres and link up with an existing Iraqi oil pipeline through Turkey. Mr. Bagirov said an interna-

Cyprus.

mediately.

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Turkey to introduce

500,000-lira banknotes

ANKARA (R) - Turkey, suffering from chronic inflation, is to

introduce 500,000-lira banknotes, the central bank said Wednesday.

The new note, the highest denomination ever to be put into circulation in Turkey, will hit the streets on March 18. At current

exchange rates, it is worth \$53. Turkey's annual inflation is running at

58.2 per cent. Some 39 trillion lira (\$4.14 billion), mostly in 250,000

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ANKARA (R) — Turkey and tional construction consortium Azerbaijan signed a landmark would be set up once Azerbaijan's agreement Tuesday for a \$1.4 parliament approved the deal. "I

> He said five foreign companies were expected to bid for a share in the project, but did not identify

Mete Goknel, general manager of Turkey's state pipeline com-pany Botas, said construction would take two years from early 1994. The pipeline would be able to carry 40 million tonnes a year, enough to accommodate exports from Kazakhstan later.

"It will first carry 25 million tonnes of Azeri oil per year and then at a later stage it is planned to pump 15 million tonnes of Kazakh oil a year," he told repor-

The line will reach Dogubayazit, on Turkey's eastern border, after transiting Iran and the Azeri enclave of Nakhichevan. "In Turkey, it will be con-

nected to the Iraqi pipeline at (the southeastern town of) Midyat after running via (the eastern city of) Erzurum and

north of Lake Van," he said. The 986-kilometre twin Iraqi pipelines were shut down in com-

posed against Iraq in 1990. Mr. Goknel said existing agreements with Baghdad gave Ankara the right to use the pipelines for non-Iraqí oil and said a new pipeline would be build if sanc-

pliance with U.N. sanctions im-

tions on Iraq were lifted. "We will build a third pipeline for about 200 million in three or four years. It is likely that Iraqi oil trade will have resumed by the time Azeri oil begins to be pumped," he said.

Mr. Bagirov said earlier that finance for the project would come from the World Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and Citibank, but did not give details.

"Azerbaijan will pay a transit fee. We are still negotiating on that," he told Reuters. A Turkish oil official said the fee was likely to be 10 cents per barrel per 100

Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin said the agreement did not rule out use of a route that would take the pipeline for about

40 kilometres through Armenia, saving about 25 kilometres compared to the Iranian route.

But he said the war over Azerbaijan's Armenian-dominated enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh woud have to be settled first. "If the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan ends, the

pipeline project could be revised to pass through Armenian territory," Mr. Cetin said. "Or both routes could be built." He said Iran had given Baku a

green light to build part of the pipeline across its territory. Diplomats say Iranian involvement might deter some Western inves-

Mr. Cetin said the pipeline deal would encourage other such projects with former Soviet republics Central Asia.

"A gas pipeline from Turkmenistan to Europe through Turkey and the pumping of Kazakh oil are waiting a peaceful and stable atmosphere (to emerge) in the Caucasus region," he said. Baku has vast but largely unex-

plored offshore fields with esti-

mated reserves of 3.5 billion to 12

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Serb forces advance in Bosnia

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Bosnian Serb forces backed by artillery reportedly closed in Wednesday on two more towns in eastern Bosnia, and a U.N. aid convoy was blocked for a second day.

Also Wednesday, six U.S. Air Force cargo planes dropped 42 tonnes of food and medical supplies over Srebrenica, the 10th mission of the American relief

The Serbs were taking aim at two towns - Srebrenica and Konjevic Polje.

The last Muslim defence position outside Srebrenica fell to advancing Serbs who were within five kilometres of the town, said local Bosnian army spokesman fbrahim Decirevic, reached by ham radio Wednesday from Zagreb. Croatia.

A Bosnian Serb military statement issued Tuesday said Serb forces seized two strategic hills about nine kilometres (six miles). north of Srebrenica.

A U.N. convoy headed to the Konjevic Polie area near Srebrenica to evacuate up to 75 sick and wounded Muslims was blocked for a second day by local Serb commanders at Zvornik on the Serbian border, said Tony Land, the representative in Sarajevo of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

He said the main dispute with the Serbs focused on who could be evacuated. The Serb commander insisted soldiers could not be included, but Mr. Land said that would exclude males age 10 to 60, a "large proportion" of the

seriously wounded. U.N. land convoys to eastern Bosnia have been repeatedly turned back by ethnic Serb forces, prompting the United States to start dropping aid from

Clinton,

needs

Mitterrand

say Russia

quick aid

WASHINGTON (AP) — Presi-

dent Bill Clinton has said he will

try to mobilise swift Western help

for Russia in an effort to keep its endangered political and econo-

mic reforms on track. He said the

crisis can not wait until a seven

Adding his support for a proposed emergency meeting of the

Group of Seven major industrial-

ised nations, Mr. Clinton Tues-

day said it was "important for us

to try to move aggressively to give

the Russians the means to restore

some economic growth and

opportunity and preserve politic-

al liberty."
French President Francois Mit-

terrand, joining Mr. Clinton at a

press conference after an intro-

doctory meeting, voiced his own

support for an emergency G-7

cally in Eastern Europe and in

Russia, that are urgent," Mr.

Former President Nixon, who

met Monday evening with Mr. Clinton to discuss Russia, met

separately Tuesday with Republi-

can and Democratic senators to

urge more U.S. aid to Russia and

other states of the former Soviet

Union. Congressional sources

said Mr. Nixon made the trip to

Capitol Hill because Mr. Clinton

asked him to make a special

Mr. Nixon said he believed U.S.

aid can decide "whether political

and economic freedom survive"

in Russia and the other former

The idea of an early G-7 sum-

mit has drawn opposition from

Tokyo, host for the next sche-

duled annual meeting of the Un-

ited States, Canada, Germany,

Britain, France, Italy and Japan.

Tokyo does not want anything to

steal the thunder from its July

In a brief corridor interview,

appeal to GOP senators.

Soviet republics.

Mitterrand said.

"There are problems, specifi-

nation summit in July.

U.N. refugee officials were negotiating with Serbs to secure passage for the trucks and an aid convoy Thursday to Srebrenica, where a World Health Organisation doctor reported 97 people were close to death.

Muslims were trapped in Konjevic Polie after Serbs routed them last week from nearby Cers-

Sadik Hajdarevic, a defence official reached Wednesday by ham radio in Konjevic Polje, said the town was under heavy artillery attack and that more than 100 people were killed.

The report, like most from the region, could not be independently confirmed.

Mr. Hajdarevic said Serb troops had advanced to within five kilometres of the town. He said they were also only 500 metres from the road south from Zvornik, the main corridor for U.N. relief convoys to the eastern region and for refugees fleeing

Serb forces apparently wanted control of the road to link Serbia and the Bosnian Serb headquarters of Pale, just east of Sarajevo, Mr. Hajdarevic said.

He said the local Bosnian military had estimated that 20,000 Serb troops were involved in the offensive, but there was no confirmation of that from the Serb

More than 130,000 people are reported dead or missing in neara year of fighting since ethnic Serbs rebelled against Muslim and Croat plans to secede from Serb dominated Yugoslavia, Bosnian Serbs have seized 70 per cent of the republic.

In New York, U.N. envoy Cyrus Vance said Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic had been invited to Paris Thursday to Owen and French President François Mitterrand.

It was not yet known whether Mr. Milosevic would attend. He is seen by many as a main instigator of the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

On Tuesday, a French peacekeeper was injured when two cars filled with "well dressed men" drove past and fired pistol shots at a U.N. logistics convoy at Mali Zvornik on the Serbian side of the border with Bosnia, a U.N. spokeswoman said.

The soldier was hit in the leg and taken to hospital but was likely to be discharged later

Wednesday, the sources said. Meanwhile, the fate of Bosnia may be decided in Sarajevo Wednesday when the former Yugoslav republic's collective presidency meets to debate whether to sign a peace plan to end the bloody 11-month civil

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic is emerging as a supporter of the plan, which was devised by international mediators Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen.
"I can't be neutral, I'm in

favour of peace," the president told reporters in Sarajevo earlier

Mr. Izetbegovic will be striving Wednesday to build consensus for the plan among colleagues on the 10-member Bosnian presidency. Senior government, military and party officials are also expected to take part in the discus-

Opposition to the plan, which is strongest among elements of around Vice-President Ejup Ganic at the meeting.

Mr. Ganic argues the

meet with him, EC envoy Lord bel Serb aggression and contain only vague international guarantees for the continued sovereignty and integrity of the Bosnian state.

"Vance and Owen are trying to convert this conflict from an external aggression to an internal dispute, ' the vice-president said

United Nations resolutions have identified Serb forces -Bosnian Serbs and their political and military supporters in neigh-bouring Serbia — as the aggres-sors in the Bosnian conflict.

But the peace plan gives rebel Serb forces control over three of the 10 new provinces and a full say in any future government. Even opponents of the Vance-Owen plan admit the Bosnian army is desperately short of the ammunition it needs to continue

Russia Tuesday stepped up pressure on Bosnia's warring parties to accept an international

"The sides in the conflict are faced with a choice — approve the basic elements of this plan or take responsibility for further bloodshed," President Boris Yeltsin declared in a terse state-

The Russian president issued his statement, his first devoted solely to the Yugoslav conflict, as Bosnia's Muslim-led government and the Bosnian Serbs considered their response to the peace plan.

"The current round of talks in New York confirmed the absence of a real alternative to the Vance-Owen plan as the basis for a settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina," Mr. Yeltsin said the Bosnian army, could cement, in his statement, issued by his press service.

"And the appropriate conclusions should be made by the U.N. mediators' proposals reward re- Security Council," it said.

French opposition 'to win' slimmer majority

PARIS (R) — France's centre-right opposition would clink a comfortable but slimmer than earlier forecast majority at the March 21-26 general elections, according to an opinion poll released Wednesday.

The Sofres survey projected that out of 555 constituencies in mainland France, the Neo-Gaulist Rally For the Republic (RPR) and its centre-right ally, the Union for French Democracy (UDF), would win 418 seats.

The two parties, which have 259 deputies in the outgoing National Assembly (inwer house), are running single candidates in most constituencies.

A score of 418 seats would be

well above the absolute majority of 278 but down from a projection of 453 in Sofres survey conducted on Feb. 6-10.

The new poll, published in Le Figaro newspaper and conducted on March 5-6, predicted 212 seats for the RPR and 201 for the

No one was hurt in the shootpressed forces to fight back. "I am launching a general appeal to all UNITA armed ing Tuesday but the Russianmade cargo plane, clearly identified with a World Food Programforces... to gather together in their old areas. We have unime logo on the side, returned to forms, arms, ammunition, bombs, and food," Mr. Savimbi Luanda without delivering its car-

United Nations troops watch over the exchange of 57 Serbian prisoners for 64 Bosnians at Sarajevo

ternational community to lift an arms embargo to enable his hard-

Relief plane shot at in Angola

go of humanitarian aid. said in an hour-long address to the nation on UNITA's Vorgan Voice of Resistance of the Black Cubal lies 150 kilometres west of the central city of Huambo, which fell to UNITA at the weekend after two months of Cockerel radio. We will immediately order

the reorganisation of your units in order to continue with the battles Government troops on the way for the sake of bringing dignity to the Banta people in their land of origin. Come quickly. I know that Rebel leader Jonas Savimbi

you will trust my word."
Mr. Savimbi, whose movement recaptured the crucial city of Huambo at the weekend after a 55-day battle, demanded a change of venue and the replacement of the U.N. mediator as the price of his participation in further peace talks with the govern-

held in Addis Ababa anymore.

CUBAL, Angola (R) — UNITA rebels shot at a U.N. plane carrying food and medical aid to Cubal in western Angola as it Santos, meanwhile, urged the instance of the land of the We shall only attend the talks if they are held in Geneva," he said in remarks monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation.

A UNITA delegation would leave Angola on March 13 to

European and African capitals to outline UNITA's plans for negotiations, he added. Nigeria, the Ivory Coast and Morocco should play an important role in the process, he said.

We are prepared to negotiate with the (ruling) MPLA and with other political parties." Mr. Savimbi said. Angola should establish a provisional government of national unity - which would include representatives

from both parties, he added.
UNITA (National Union for
the Total Independence of Angola) failed to turn up for peace talks in Addis Ababa 10 days ago. Margaret Anstee, U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali's representative in Angola. organised the talks but Mr. Savimbi said he would not negotiate while she was still involved.

"As long as she is here, there will be no negotiations, because she has no experience in African "We do not want talks to be affairs. She should leave," he



Michael Jackson appears on crutches

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Pop superstar Michael Jackson, sulfering an ankle injury, appeared onstage sitting in a wheelchair and then aided by crutches at the televised Soul Train Music Awards show Tuesday night. Jackson hurt his ankle Monday while rehearsing for the show. said Soul Train publicist Ramon Hervey. Jackson appeared towards the end of the syndicated broadcast to perform his hit song Remember The Time. Throughout the performance he was sitting in a wheelchair, as other performers danced around him. At the song's conclusion he stood briefly to take a bow as the audience responded with a standing ovation. Jackson was then wheeled off the stage to the awards podium, where he stood with the aid of the crutch. Jackson was hospitalised in January 1984 after his hair caught fire during filming of a Pepsi Cola commercial in Los Angeles. The accident, caused by a mistiring flash bomb, left him with seconddegree scalp burns. Once known for being reclusive. Jackson has suddenly shown a high profile in recent weeks, appearing at President Bill Clinton's inaugural celebration, the NAACP Image Awards, the American Music Awards, the Grammy Awards and the Super Bowl's halftime

Stolen money — the soot of all evil

PANAMA CITY (R) — Three bandits saw their plans for easy money go up in smoke when they inadvertently burned almost 10,000 in cash while trying to open a service st on safe with a blowtorch, police said Tuesday. The men, armed with pistols and wearing nylon stockings over their faces, tied up attendants at a Panama City petrol station early Monday and went to work on the safe, police said. "They spent more than 30 minutes trying to open it with a blowtorch. The safe got very hot and the bills burned. It was an absurd robbery," the police spokesman said.

Prince's sunshine tour slammed

LONDON (R) - Queen Elizabeth's husband Prince Philip left Britain for a controversial yacht tour of the Caribbean that has been criticised as a squandering of taxpayers' money. The prince, 71, flew to Dominica on one of the queen's private jets. He will board the royal yacht Britannia for a 10-day tour to the West Indies. Montserrat and the Virgin Islands is what Buckingham Palace describes as "official working visits." But British tabloids, abuzz for months with critical stories about the royals, have said the trip looks suspiciously like a sunshine break for the prince

U.S. motorist tells of hearing racial slurs during beating

LOS ANGELES (R) — The ler, what's up nigger? How do rore against police brutality when black motorist whose videotaped you feel killer, how do you feel, it was shown on national and worst riots in American history, ed in open court for - Tuesday

Airport Tuesday (AFP photo)

tried to land, a Reuter reporter

to Huambo had passed through

Cubal, which the government claims it retook from UNITA in

issued a call to arms to his sup-

porters Tuesday following gov-

ernment warnings that Angola

was slipping back into all-out civil

In a tough speech spelling out

his terms for a resumption of

peace talks with the government,

Mr. Savimbi ordered his fighters back to the bush saying UNITA

would reorganise disbanded units

on the plane said.

heavy fighting.

and said pouce ... rs shouted racial slurs and threatened to kill him as they hit him. Rodney K ... ing against

four white others woused of wilfully violating his civil rights, said after he had been shot by an electronic taser gun and hit once in the head with a "sharp object," an officer told him "we are gonna" kill you, nigger."

Mr. King said he tried to get up and run. "It was at that point when - I'm not exactly sure, but I heard, as they were hitting me. they were chanting, 'what's up kil-

In answer to Justice Department lawyer Barry Kowalski, Mr. King said he wasn't sure if the officers were saying 'killer,' or 'nigger.'
Officers Laurence Powell, The-

odore Briseno and former officer Timothy Wind are on trial for violating Mr. King's civil rights by beating him. Sergeant Stacey Koon, the senior officer on the scene, faces the same charge for allegedly failing to stop the

The incident was videotaped by plumbing store manager George

When a suburban Simi Valley iury acquitted the officers on state charges last April it sparked the worst urban riots in the United States this century. Fifty three people were killed in Los Angeles and property damage from three-days of bloody violence was put at 1 billion.

Mr. King, who told the court he dropped out of high school in the 11th grade, appeared on the stand wearing a dark business suit, white shirt and tie. He spoke Holliday as it happened outside lucidly, but slowly, sometimes his apartment in northwest Los licking his lips and taking fre-Angeles. The tape created a fu- quent sips of water.

North Korea warns war possible at any time

PEKING (R) — North Korea, which has declared a state of "semi-war". warned Wednesday that all-out war could erupt any time on the tense Korean peninsula as U.S. and South Korean troops conduct annual manoeuvres.

Pyongyang would not attack first, North Korean ambassador to China Chu Chang Jun told a news conference in Peking.

Kim Jong-II, son of supreme leader Kim Il-Sung ordered the nation put on high alert because of the level of sophisticated weaponry the United States has brought to the annual Team Spirit military exercises, Mr. Chu

"The U.S. forces in Team Spirit '93 are using the most: up-todate weapons ...not used in exercises before," Mr. Chu said. "An all-out war can break out any Mr. Kim Jong-Il, Pyongyang's

military supremo, ordered the state of alert Monday. More than 100,000 North Koreans rallied in Pyongyang to support the order, North Korean media reported.

Mr. Chu was vague on why Pyongyang, for the first time since 1983, declared the semi-war footing. The joint exercise has been held every year since 1976, except for last year's which was cancelled due to a slight thaw in relations between North and South.

exercise is purely defensive. Team Spirit draws outraged rhetoric from Pyongyang every year but this year a new factor Chu said. "Then they'll tell us to exists - North Korea's refusal to admit International Atomic ener-

nuclear weapons may be under

Washington and Seoul say the



amphibious landing at a beach on South Korea's

southeast coast, during their yearly joint military exercises codenamed Team Spirit

development On Feb. 25, the Vienna-based nuclear watchdog gave the North and month to respond to its demand for access to the sites at Yongbyon, 100 kilometres northwest of Pyongyang.

Pyongyang has said that reneated demands from the IAEA could trigger war. Such demands violated North Korea's sovereignty, it said.

"If we open two military facilities today, they'll ask us to open eight tomorrow." Ambassador open all our military facilities to the Korean peninsula." inspection."

gy Agency (IAEA) inspectors to check military facilities where secretly developing nuclear weapons and that the installations

at Yongbyon are conventional military sites. North Korea's Ambassador to

the United Nations Pak Gil Yon, seeking to explain to journalists why his country went on a "semiwar" footing, said the two Koreas had already signed a non-aggression pact and other agreements pledging not to attack each other.

"So then why did the Americans instigate the South Koreans to start such a manoeuvre?" he asked. "It is a war exercise and particularly a nuclear war exercise against the Northern part of

"I think the situation is more serious than before," he told Reuters. "Any moment this milit-

ary manoeuvre could be extended into a real war. I do not exclude this possibility."

He said the entire country and army was now on alert and in a state of "semi-war" to counter "such reckless aggression." Washington and Seoul say the

annual Team Spirit military exercises are a purely defensive ac-

"But Mr. Pak linked the exercises to pressure on North Korea from the IAEA the United States and Japan for North Korea to allow inspections of its nuclear facilities_

This is correlated with unreasonable pressures from IAEA. We will not accept this," he said.

Fergie's father steps down from polo job

LONDON (R) - The father-inlaw of Britain's Prince Andrew resigned Tuesday from his job at a leading polo club following allegations over his private life. Major Ronald Ferguson, whose daughter Sarah "Fergie" Ferguson has separated from Prince Andrew, said he was stepping down from his post at the Royal County of Berkshire Polo Club. Maj. Ferguson was honorary polo manager for Prince Charles until last week when Prince Charles said he would no longer be playing at the top level and would not require his services. The move was seen as a bid by the royals to distance themselves from Maj. Ferguson, who is alleged to have had an affair with a woman polo

Ukrainian city to give fare dodgers the chop

KIEV (R) — A city in western Ukraine has hired karate enthusiasts to help collect bus fares from recalcitrant passengers, the Ukrainform News AGency said Tuesday Authorities in Chernivtsy near the Romanian border turned to the martial arts practitioners, all volunteers, after repeated attacks on bus inspectors, manay of whom are young women. "It is an indisputable fact that order on public transport has improved," the agency said.
Fares in the city stand at five karbovanets. Ukraine's interim currency, compared to the minimum monthly salary of 4,600. Passengers caught without a ticket are liable to a fine of 30

summit, and it also has a longstanding territorial dispute with Russia over four islands. "The important point I'd like to make is I don't believe we can wait until July for the major countries of the world who care about what happens in Russia and who would like very much to keep political and economic reform on track there, to move." Mr. Clinton said.

Still, Mr. Clinton left open the possibility that aid for Russia could be dealt with at a lower level, such as finance or foreign ministers. G-7 finance ministers and central bank presidents are to

meet in Washington in late April, and Russia's struggle is expected to be at the top of their agenda. White House Communications Director George Stephanopoulos said a heads-of-state meeting was possible but was not the only way

the issue could be dealt with.

'Mr. Mitterrand will visit Mos-

cow this month for talks with

Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Suharto re-elected president

JAKARTA (R) - President Suharto, Indonesia's iron ruler of the past 27 years, was reelected Wednesday for a fresh five-year term and immediately chose the recently retired military chief as vice-president. Mr. Suharto's election by the 1,000-member People's Consultative Assembly, over half of whom are appointed, was a foregone conclusion. Even his choice of Try Sutrisno as vice-president had been pre-ordained. Since rising to power in 1965 when he led the army to crush a coup attempt. Mr. Suharto has stood unopposed in all six elections in the giant South East Asian country of 180 million people. "Since there was only one presidential candidate, according to the law he is automatically formalised as president," chairman of the assembly, Wahono, said. The assembly accepted the choise by acclamation.

Gunmen hold 19 hostages in Costa Rica

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP) - Three gunmen were holed up Wednesday with 19 hostages, including the Nicaraguan ambassa-dor, after vowing to leave "victorious or dead." "They have gallons of gasoline there, and if someone smokes or there is a gunshot, this could end tragically," mediator Cardinal Kiguel Obando Y. Bravo of Nicaragua said. The gunmen, who stormed the embassy Monday with AK-47 assault rifles and other arms, are demanding the dismissal of Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo, President Violeta Chamorro's closest advisor. They also want the dismissal of Nicaraguan army chief Humberto Ortega, \$5 million for social projects in Nicaragua and \$1 million to finance their own movement. Interior Minister Alfredo Mendieta rejected the demands after he and other Nicaraguan officials

arrived late Tuesday. France's Joxe leaves ministry early

PARIS (R) — French Defence Minister Pierre Joxe left office to move to a more stable job Wednesday, less than two weeks before parliamentary elections expected to deal his Socialist Party a crushing defeat. "M. Pierre Joxe's office has come to an end and he has been called to other functions," the official Gazette announced. "The prime minister, M. Pierre Beregovoy, is named defence minister." Political sources expected Mr. Joxe to be named president of the Public Audit Office at a cabinet meeting, a secure job from which he cannot be removed until he reaches the statutory retirement age of 69. He is only 58 now. Opposition leaders wasted no time in denouncing what they saw as a piece of shameless job-snatching by an outgoing government that had lost its public legitimacy.

Scots scoff at Major's plans

EDINBURGH (R) — The British government has unveiled plans to give Scotland greater control over its own affairs, but the measures were swiftly condemned by Scots themselves. "Chickenfeed," said a young Edinburgh voter. "What we need is our own Scottish assembly." Nationalists seeking an end to nearly three centuries of government from London called the package "the biggest damp squib since Guy Fawkes" — a reference to the leader of an unsuccessful plot to blow up the Westminster parliament in 1605. Draft legislation unveiled in the House of Commons will change the way Scottish affairs are handled by parliament, give more powers to the government department responsible for Scotland and increase the number of civil servants actually working in the area. It contains no concrete moves to devolve a political power to the land of five million people.

Theodorakis resigns parliamentary seat

ATHENS (R) - Mikis Theodorakis, who composed the score for the film Zorba The Greek, has resigned his seat in the Greek parliament, his office said Wednesday. Mr. Theodorakis, 67, turned in his resignation Tuesday night to concentrate on his new duties as a music director for the state-run Hellenic Radio and Television (ERT), his office said. He will be replaced by another conservative deputy, leaving the ruling New Democracy Party with a 152-seat absolute majority in the 300-member parliament. Mr. Theodorakis was a committed Communist for most of his life and served as a Communist deputy from 1981 to 1986. But he broke with the left and won a conservative seat in June 1989. He served briefly as minister without portfolio after the conservatives formed their first government in almost 10 years following fresh elections in April 1990.

Kanemaru probe widens in Japan

TOKYO (R) - Japanese prosecutors raided Okasan Securities brokerage in Tokyo in search of evidence of alleged huge tax evasion by fallen ruling party chief Shin Kanemaru, news reports said Wednesday. A spokesman for Oakasan, said he could not confirm reports that prosecutors searched company premises Tuesday night looking for evidence linked to their probe of Mr. Kanemaru, who is under arrest. Television and news agency reports said, however, that investigators were lookiong for records of the sale to Mr. Kanemaru of one billion yen (\$8.6 million) worth of five-year discount bearer bonds.